

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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**PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH INCLUSION, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND
DEMOCRATIZATION IN LATIN AMERICA**

**STATUS REPORT BY ANNUAL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
AUGUST 2004 - SEPTEMBER 2005**

The **General Strategic Objective** of the Cooperative Agreement between the IIHR and USAID for the entire 2002-2005 period is "To make a significant contribution to the construction of more inclusive and transparent democracies that promote the effective protection of human rights in the western hemisphere."

The **General Performance Indicator** for the same period is "Networks representing civil society are stronger and state-run institutions have enhanced technical capabilities for raising awareness of human rights and improving levels of rights protection and democratic governability in the countries of the region."

The following strategic objective was set **for both 2004 and 2005**, with a view to making progress towards the general performance indicator:

"To make progress toward the goals of promoting a culture of inclusion, the early detection and prevention of conflicts, and the democratization of institutions and political processes."

The following **Annual Performance Indicator** was established **for both 2004 and 2005**, to evaluate the progress made in achieving these strategic objectives: "State-run institutions and civil society human rights networks are better equipped to defend and promote human rights, and build more inclusive democratic societies, by means of more comprehensive approaches, more consistent methodologies, more effective techniques and more up-to-date technologies; and initiatives aimed at building more democratic societies that are more inclusive of diversity and respectful of human rights (creation or strengthening of ombudsman's offices, drafting and implementation of public policies, participation and inclusion of interests of excluded populations, etc.) are more sustainable."

Starting Points

In general, there are a number of negative factors affecting the situation in the region. The target populations (women and the indigenous and Afro-descendant populations) suffer discrimination and social and political exclusion; citizen insecurity is growing and government agencies for combating the problem are either non-existent or ineffectual; electoral-political institutions and

processes are ineffective and not transparent; and threats to human rights and democratic governability are on the rise.

The situation with regard to each of the **Lines of Action** called for in the IIHR-USAID Cooperative Agreement is as follows:

Promoting a culture of inclusion:

Exclusion, discrimination, limited participation and the failure to recognize human rights are common problems in the region. The calls by women, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations for new or improved national legislation and policies go unheeded, even though their demands are consistent with the international human rights agenda and instruments.

The work under the national projects forged ahead in line with the decisions taken at the Strategic Meeting of Advocacy Networks-Organizations (August 2003). The counterparts are working on the work plans established for 2005 in each country.

Conflict prevention:

At present, there are no public citizen security policies with a human rights perspective, or instruments for designing and implementing them. However, in some countries the political will exists to change this situation, providing an ideal opportunity for the IIHR's strategy for action in this field.

In Argentina, the actions planned for 2005 are designed to strengthen community involvement in the democratic construction of security. In the Dominican Republic, during 2005 the project will support the process of security sector reform as part of the Public Citizen Security Policy drawn up in 2004 and 2005 with the IIHR's assistance.

Most Latin American countries still do not have an ombudsman's office; even in those that do, the institution has yet to be consolidated.

The region lacks mechanisms for providing an early warning and rapid response to conflicts and threats to human rights and democratic governability. The situation in the Americas is changeable and in recent years problems have arisen that posed a real risk to democracies and, therefore, to the effective exercise of human rights. Developments in Argentina, Venezuela, Guatemala, Colombia and Bolivia are some cases in point. In some instances, the crises were acute and unpredictable, and immediate action was needed to prevent or minimize consequences that posed a threat to human rights and democratic governance. The first action was carried out in Guatemala in the second half of 2003. The results demonstrated that the IIHR is capable of achieving objectives within a short space of time, as required for the emergency actions called for under this project.

Democratization of political processes:

Only in some countries of the region is power handed over normally from one government to another and the Constitution respected. Electoral organizations suffer from institutional or technical weaknesses and there is no systematized knowledge of positive political-electoral processes in the region. In general, there is an absence of a democratic culture or participatory political practices, and the electoral legislation of most countries has shortcomings.

The basic norms governing political-electoral matters in each country have not been systematized (articles in constitutions, electoral laws and legislation governing political parties). The same is true of the statutes and special regulations of the parties themselves, which contain provisions on the representation of sectors and ethics and internal electoral tribunals. In general, political parties in the region are characterized by exclusion and lack internal democracy.

The IIHR-CAPEL made progress with research on political parties in the region, so that 2005 will be a year of transition from research to action.

Progress in achieving the IIHR's Annual Performance Indicators (2003-2004)

The following is an overview of the progress made between September 2004 and August 2005 in achieving the IIHR's Annual Performance Indicators for 2004-2005 under each **Line of Action** established in the IIHR–USAID Cooperative Agreement:

Promoting a culture of inclusion:

The objective of the project **Promoting a Culture of Inclusion** was to enhance the capacity of women's, indigenous and Afro-descendant organizations to influence the efforts of the civil society human rights movement to translate equality before the law into real equality. This would permit the groups they represent to exercise their rights more fully and help strengthen democracy.

To achieve this objective, the project continued to implement systematic, strategic actions aimed at increasing the participation, influence, and the inclusion of the interests, of the target populations (women and the indigenous and Afro-descendant populations).

One important achievement was that an indigenous lawyer, Dr. Eduardo Nieva, was heavily involved in the *Fourth meeting of the negotiations to seek consensus on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which was preceded by a caucus of delegates from indigenous peoples in the region. Dr. Nieva played a leading role in the activity as one of the three legal experts chosen by the indigenous peoples themselves to advise them on their proposals to the States and to fine-tune and standardize the texts. This took the process further than the three previous activities. Dr. Nieva also lobbied his government and this had an impact on the negotiations regarding the articles under discussion. Another very positive development was the meeting with the Chair of the Working Group in charge of preparing the Draft Declaration. Substantive issues of importance to the region's native peoples were discussed, such as the national consultations on the Draft Declaration, the caucus' concerns regarding the possible deadline for concluding the Working Group's consultations, the restriction on the participation of indigenous representatives in future sessions, the matters and proposals that enjoyed the support of a majority of the plenary, etc. Progress was made in including the interests of indigenous peoples in this difficult negotiation mechanism, demonstrating that enhancing the advocacy capabilities of their representatives was the right way to go in terms of the strengthening and practice of democracy. The Program Officer of the IIHR's Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Program in charge of this component of the Inclusion Project also took part in the meeting and was able to discuss the project with some of the indigenous leaders present. She also discussed with Dr. Nieva the viability of some of the articles proposed both by the caucus and by the States during the course of the activity. The jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on indigenous peoples proved to be an important resource for modifying some of the articles under discussion.

Throughout the project, and based on the results of the Strategic Meeting at which national processes in Peru, Panama and Colombia were planned and coordinated (08/03), actions were undertaken to promote positive legislation with regard to the rights of women and the Afro-descendant and indigenous populations. This led to the coordination of actions to strengthen advocacy efforts among civil society organizations and between them and political actors and institutions (government agencies, the Executive and Legislative Branches, the Ombudsman). Both in Panama and Peru, organizations representing other target populations also got behind the bills, thus contributing to one of the project's objectives, which was to expand alliances involving various actors and sectors (in Panama, women supported the efforts to pass a law guaranteeing non-discrimination in the workplace, while in Peru the Afro-descendant community supported the law on equality). The dissemination and information strategies were also strengthened, with international human rights protection instruments and domestic laws being widely disseminated. Thanks to the media coverage in the different countries, the citizenry is better acquainted with the draft legislation in question.

In *Peru*, the project's representatives worked hard to influence the parliamentary actors. As a result, the bill made considerable progress on the legislative agenda compared to the situation described in the last report. It was included in the 2004-2005 legislative agenda and given priority status in the field of equity and social justice. Developments in the national political arena affect the parliamentary agenda and, when the project concluded in May 2005, the bill had still not been debated by Congress. Although it remains a priority item on the agenda, the two committees (Justice and Human Rights and Women and Social Development) have still not reached agreement on a single text based on their respective reports that could be submitted to parliament. If they fail to come to an agreement by June 2005, when the legislative year ends, the matter will have to be addressed by the next legislature. However, the working relationship developed with parliamentary advisors and sympathetic lawmakers enabled the Collective to transmit positions, facilitate specialized documents and enjoy expeditious channels of communication in Congress. Having direct contact with lawmakers who support the bill and members of parliamentary committees that are key for promoting the bill in the legislature makes it possible to provide more information about women's rights and exert greater influence. In Peru, the project was instrumental in achieving the close coordination of a wide range of civil society organizations involved with women's rights, promoted by the "Women for Equal Opportunities" Collective. Hitherto there had been only limited efforts by a group of organizations that did not network or coordinate their efforts in a sustained way. Setting up the Collective made it possible to establish common agendas and interests, discuss issues and strategies together, and coordinate the work and enhance the resources of each organization. The bill also became one of the core issues on the agenda of the women's social movement. The counterpart organizations affirm that the IIHR's constant monitoring, follow-up and technical assistance, both virtual and onsite, have contributed to the effective and efficient implementation of the projects under way. The continuity of the information processes (contributions were systematized and bulletins and various documents about the bill were disseminated) helped increase the amount of knowledge and information in the hands of women of various organizations. The press and television were used to provide the organizations and the general public with more information about women's rights and the draft legislation.

The progress made under the national project in *Panama* is clear for all to see: the Afro-Panamanian movement is stronger, its influence has increased and several of the goals set in the *Strategic Afro-Panamanian advocacy plan*, drawn up following the Strategic Meeting in 2003, have been achieved. The latter include: a) Law 11 of 22 April 2005 "*Which prohibits labor discrimination and adopts measures*"; b) Executive Decree No. 124 of 27 May 2005, "*Creating a special commission to develop a government policy for the full inclusion of black Panamanians*";

c) Amendment to Article 9 of the Electoral Code of 10 March 2005, "*Granting prisoners the right to vote*"; and, d) Afro-Panamanian proposal for the transformation of justice of 22 April 2005, presented to the *State Justice Commission* in Panama, as a result of which the community was invited to take part in its work. The actions got under way in a complex sociopolitical context (the ongoing electoral process) that turned out to be a boon as far as the success of the Afro-Panamanian initiatives was concerned. One of the project's strategies involved drafting a 16-point political platform and presenting it to the presidential candidates. This was a key factor in what was achieved.

In *Colombia*, the indigenous peoples continue to face serious human rights problems stemming from the internal armed conflict. The latter include persistent violations of their fundamental rights and international humanitarian law, while their communities are increasingly harassed by the armed groups in many regions of the country. Threats, arbitrary detentions, forced recruitment, disappearances, murders, torture and the occupation of their territories and holy places are commonplace occurrences. The situation is compounded by disregard for their traditional authorities and forced displacement. The ONIC therefore carried out monitoring and follow-up activities, and provided support to the populations affected, visiting every corner of the national territory in doing so. Significant progress was achieved despite the difficulties, including the positioning of the indigenous peoples, so that through their national organization and macro-regional, district, regional and local organizations they were able to take decisions and help define a strategy for influencing the proposed Land Management Act (LOOT). The aim is to promote the territorial, cultural and political integrity of Colombia's indigenous peoples, and strengthen and promote the exercise and defense of key principles of the indigenous movement, such as autonomy, governability, territory, culture and unity. This led the ONIC to produce a territorial policy paper in which it prioritized the territorial needs of Colombia's indigenous peoples. Six events were held in 2004 to continue evaluating and reorienting organizational policies in the current situation. The indigenous organizations also implemented political advocacy activities at the regional and national levels with regard to the enactment of the LOOT. All this culminated with the implementation, in 2005, of a *National workshop to provide follow-up to the territorial agenda of Colombia's indigenous peoples*. The objective of this activity was to monitor and evaluate the actions and progress of the work of the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC) in implementing the indigenous peoples' territorial agenda, and design strategies and program future actions in this area. The Program Officer in charge of the component supported the implementation of the project and carried out two technical missions to Colombia in 2004 and 2005.

Two other points are worth highlighting. Firstly, throughout the period under review the project continued to interact with parliamentary, political and governmental actors in order to keep up the pressure for the enactment of the LOOT. New contacts were made and the likelihood of priority issues of the indigenous agenda being taken on board by various sectors of the government increased. The national process of building consensus with the State led to an agreement being negotiated with the Colombian Rural Development Institute (INCODER) that laid the groundwork for developing the institution's mission with regard to the indigenous peoples and advancing the process of legalizing the territories (creating, expanding and clearing title to them). Secondly, the training and dissemination actions carried out during the project made it possible to establish, develop or strengthen the indigenous movement's operating capabilities (legal, for advocacy, leadership, internal and external coordination, political, etc.).

Another positive aspect was the sustained growth of the specialized sections of the Institute's website, *Diversidades* (indigenous peoples, efforts to combat racism) and *DerechosMujer*. The content grew steadily during the reporting period, demonstrating the interest of the target

populations not only in the information on offer but also in submitting different types of news, documents, legislation, the addresses of new organizations and other material, all of which was incorporated into the two sections. Information is a useful tool for coordinating organizations, disseminating specialized material to support the drafting of legislation and other working proposals, identifying consultants and providing follow-up to the work of legislative bodies and others that support the inclusion of the target population.

The national projects had a bigger impact because they not only helped develop and enhance the expertise of the members of the organizations involved but also that of other networks-organizations that forged partnerships with the counterparts during the course of the work. This had a positive impact on their leadership capabilities and working proposals, conceptual documents and the promotion of various advocacy, lobbying and negotiating efforts aimed at different state actors and other institutions linked to these projects. This was particularly noticeable in Colombia and Peru. One of the objectives proposed at the Strategic Meeting was that of raising the profile of the populations concerned. The results were even better than expected, especially in case of Panama, where there was a marked increase in the amount of news coverage of the Afro-Panamanian population's achievements and in-depth reports on their predicament.

In conclusion, having more, and more equitable, access to political and citizen participation, and to the opportunities and benefits of sustainable development, will strengthen governability, inclusive democracy and the rule of law, thereby reducing the dangers posed by the extreme poverty, marginalization and exclusion of Colombia's indigenous peoples and Afro-Panamanians.

Conflict prevention:

The project **Citizen Security in Latin America: Developing a National and Local Approach** made significant progress in the Dominican Republic and Argentina, as described below:

1. The project strengthened the institutional capabilities for designing and implementing measures to guarantee security, as part of a public security policy in the Dominican Republic

As designed, the Strategy for Modernizing the National Police in the Dominican Republic is the "roadmap" for the assistance being provided. It is a cornerstone of the country's new citizen security policy and, more specifically, of the institutional strategy that should be implemented prior or parallel to a comprehensive crime control strategy. Thus, it forms part of the reform and modernization of the citizen security system and is designed specifically to enable the police to carry out efficient crime prevention and control strategies and criminal investigations, doing away with the anachronisms and weaknesses that exist.

A comprehensive, democratic citizen security policy calls for a police system that performs its basic tasks of crime prevention and criminal investigation efficiently, strictly observing the principle of due process and the duty to protect human rights, as the best way to guarantee the right to citizen security and the human rights that it entails.

The indicators of progress are:

a.- The existence of a roadmap for instituting change within the Dominican police force, based on the guidelines produced by the IIHR, which were discussed with and validated by the police

themselves. The government has also adopted the document as a position paper for its security policy.

b.- Many senior Dominican National Police officers, including the Chief of Police and the Director of the “Preventive Police,” are totally committed to bringing about change.

c.- Initiatives are already under way to bring about change, with modern ideas endorsed by the public and the highest levels of the government. They include the organizational-operational restructuring of the Police through the creation of the “Preventive Police” and the “Detective Police,” with separate bodies of doctrine and strategies that reflect the move toward professionalization.

d.- The existence of an interinstitutional body for coordinating security issues headed by the Minister of the Interior and the Police.

e.- A Presidential Decree declaring the Democratic Security Plan a national priority. Combined with the internal provisions of the police force, this creates a legal framework for the reform measures already implemented and those that will be.

f.- The importance of the IIHR’s technical and facilitating role in the Dominican Republic is widely acknowledged and there is strong support for its continued involvement.

Since 2003, the IIHR has been involved in different stages of the design and management of a democratic public security policy in the Dominican Republic and, as part of it, in the process of overhauling the National Police.

The importance of the participatory assessment. The Institute’s work began with the participatory assessment, involving the National Police and civil society stakeholders. A key activity was the first workshop, held in October 2003, to kick off the assessment of the National Police and citizen security in the Dominican Republic. This workshop, together with a number of one-on-one meetings and the presentation of its conclusions to civil society and NGOs, validated the findings and opened the doors for the IIHR to continue its assistance.

Initially - in late 2003 -, the assessment was not accepted by the police hierarchy and they did not disseminate it properly within the institution. However, the assessment contained recommendations and offered useful solutions. Since then, the police themselves have stated that it was the best assessment of the institution ever carried out.

The validation and official endorsement of the proposals. The National Police validated the assessment and its proposals following the appointment of the present Minister of the Interior and the new Chief of Police. During this new stage, the IIHR’s assessment and proposals were officially taken on board as the basis for a new police reform strategy.

At the end of 2004, another phase got under way: after helping to prepare documents on security policy, the IIHR worked on a proposed strategy for the reform of the police. The meetings in Juan Dolio with the new Police Chief and officers from different units led to the completion of the Modernization Strategy, and the harmonization of the new doctrine, policy and strategy.

The IIHR thus contributed to the President’s decision, in the first quarter of 2005, to implement a Democratic Security Plan. He then issued a decree creating a committee to provide follow-up to the plan and formulate a program for implementing it.

The implementation of the police reform process. This is the third stage of the process and the IIHR has focused on this work during its most recent missions. The IIHR's proposals led to the creation of a new police structure, which includes the so-called "Preventive Police" and the "Investigative Police."

Evaluating the current situation objectively, it is no exaggeration to say that the authorities place great faith in the IIHR's technical assistance. The project's endeavors have been matched by commitments and sweeping changes in the security field. This has occurred since the project progressed from the assessment phase in 2003 to the current implementation stage.

The institutional and political will for change seen in the changes already instituted also makes the actions that are about to be implemented highly sustainable. The important thing is not to leave such an important effort half done. There is strong momentum for the activity but it still requires international cooperation if its success is to be fully consolidated.

2. The project has improved the mechanisms for community participation as a new democratic model for building security in Buenos Aires, Argentina

The participation of large numbers of organizations in the seminars demonstrates the level of interest in, and demand for, opportunities to acquire the expertise they need to take part in public security and help reduce insecurity, mainly through social work with groups that are at risk. Many of the participants traveled 1000 kilometers to take part, under their own steam.

The evaluations presented by all the participants and the comments expressed show that the seminars more than satisfied their expectations in terms of the expertise they acquired. They also revealed a keen interest in continuing with this strategy through a variety of actions related to the social prevention of crime.

The IIHR's project **Strengthening the Ombudsman in Latin America** helped bolster ombudsman institutions by providing training, technical assistance and political support to the different offices that required it and via the organization that represents their interests: the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsman (FIO).

In the case of the Dominican Republic, where an ombudsman has still not been appointed, the project drew attention to the importance of this institution and helped mobilize civil society, so it could bring pressure to bear in a coordinated way. Via its Ninth Congress, the FIO was strengthened as a body for the discussion and analysis of important social issues that national human rights institutions in Ibero-America are required to deal with day in and day out. The continual strengthening of this body is a must, as it plays a key role in bolstering democracy in the region.

The different training activities provided the ombudsman's offices with useful tools for carrying out their daily tasks, thereby enabling them to impact critical issues in their respective countries more effectively. The officials trained also serve as multipliers of the knowledge acquired in their respective units, thus propagating the knowledge among people who can put it to good use.

The work carried out under the **Early Warning and Rapid Response** project demonstrated that the IIHR has a clear idea of the real possibilities of implementing mechanisms to monitor threats to human rights and the capabilities of the counterparts concerned. The design of the systems for

gathering data has also reached an advanced stage and the counterparts' commitment has been confirmed - a key factor if they are to take part in a permanent effort of this nature.

Furthermore, the IIHR and its specialized programs proved they possess the expertise necessary to provide an expeditious and effective response to sensitive and vulnerable political situations that posed a threat to the democratic institutional fabric. The **Mission to analyze the pre-electoral conditions in Colombia** was a case in point. It was carried out 15-20 August 2005 in response to a request from USAID-Washington and USAID-Colombia.

Mindful of the time constraints imposed by the current electoral process, the members of the mission drew up a set of short and medium- to long-term recommendations in order of priority. They did so in order to make it easier for USAID decision makers to prioritize the lines of work they wish to support.

The team achieved its objective of garnering and processing a great deal of the information available in a short period of time and analyzing the special circumstances that USAID and the U.S. Government must take into account in devising a strategy for electoral cooperation in Colombia.

Once again, the IIHR demonstrated its ability to enlist support through its Department of Public Institutions and its specialized program, CAPEL. Particularly important in this regard was the IIHR-CAPEL's role as the Technical Secretariat of the Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsman, the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsman, the Association of Electoral Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (Tikal Protocol) and the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE). In this role as a technical secretariat, the IIHR facilitated technical and academic responses of a very high caliber - in many cases, from electoral bodies with a great deal of experience in similar political situations. This was achieved by means of horizontal cooperation, the modus operandi of these different regional alliances.

Democratization of political processes:

Through the **Strengthening Electoral Institutions** project, the IIHR-CAPEL made a major contribution to the growing role of the Inter-American Electoral Network as a channel for horizontal cooperation on electoral matters. There are ongoing institutional exchanges, under agreements such as the one between Ecuador and Brazil, while others are under negotiation (Costa Rica-Brazil and Peru-Bolivia, for training). The electoral organizations that have the most expertise in this area, such as those of Peru, Mexico and Panama, are assisting Colombia and Ecuador. Panama and Costa Rica are also working with Guatemala on voter registration and identity documents. In addition to these specific agreements, the IIHR/CAPEL has been providing the Electoral Network with a lot of new content, including materials on training, specialized education in electoral topics and analyses of the democratization of political parties. Consequently, it is no surprise that during the past year the IIHR/CAPEL has carried out two technical assistance projects with electoral organizations (in Ecuador and Honduras), exceeding the goals set for 2004 and 2005 in the process.

The project had its hands full during the reporting period, with electoral processes taking place in Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Uruguay. Since the elections in Chile and Uruguay took place around the same time, the IIHR/CAPEL team had to divide its efforts to ensure a satisfactory presence in both cases. The electoral processes continue to yield interesting lessons for horizontal cooperation, as can be seen in the respective reports, ranging from the development of voter lists to the use of electronic voting systems. The large number of activities

over the last year permitted the IIHR/CAPEL to review the main electoral issues and problems facing the Americas at this time. In particular, supporting Uruguay's electoral authorities proved to be a very useful exercise. The IIHR/CAPEL was able to observe the preferential voting system used in that country and reassess the possible undesired effects these systems can have on the dynamics of political parties, and the technical difficulties involved in counting and transmitting results. This was also the case in Ecuador, albeit to a lesser degree. It is important to bear these lessons in mind as preferential voting systems are envisaged under the new electoral legislation enacted in Honduras.

One of the horizontal cooperation missions was also used to give continuity to the Electoral Network's onsite activities, with a Special Meeting of the Quito Protocol being held in Ecuador at almost no cost to the project. Taking advantage of the presence of representatives of nearly all the South American electoral bodies, the meeting provided an important opportunity to discuss and update the work of the Executive Secretariat.

The past year was a period of intense and challenging activity. The IIHR/CAPEL had to diversify its activities, incorporating two technical assistance projects, one in Ecuador and another in Honduras. Substantial progress was made with the strategy for strengthening political parties, without neglecting the Electoral Network and the needs of the electoral organizations. The IIHR/CAPEL had to combine continuity with innovation, demonstrating that such a balance is possible but requires careful planning and a detailed study of the resources needed for each step.

The projects in Ecuador and Honduras forged ahead and became more complex (they now consist of two components each). This growing complexity has not had a negative impact on the smooth implementation of activities, however. In both countries, the IIHR/CAPEL's efforts were well timed and appreciated by the electoral organizations. However, there is also concern at the political situation in both countries, which will have to be taken into account for future activities.

In the case of Ecuador, the team wishes to highlight the important contribution, sincerity and readiness to cooperate of the sectors consulted for the evaluation of the project (polling officers and representatives of political parties were consulted about both components), and the improved quality (and broader coverage) of the 2004 Training Program thanks to the incorporation of university professors. The political parties are also keen to see their representatives trained, but this matter will have to be addressed gradually. The National Training Directorate made an important contribution; the fact that this unit is sustainable within the structure of the TSE is also important. The presentation of the final report was included, marking the end of a series of intensive activities. Now the project is focusing on an analysis of the institution's evolution in the run up to the 2006 elections. The political situation in Ecuador is extremely complex and could deteriorate in the months ahead. Therefore, we shall have to monitor closely the progress of the new electoral authorities and the preparations for next year's elections. In this connection, the staff has been working closely with USAID officials for some time.

In the case of Honduras, the technical assistance was urgently needed and very timely. The TSE unit in charge of the training was very open to our advice and assistance. The fact that our consultants got on very well with the President of the TSE and the other judges was a big plus; indeed, they are now being consulted about many topics not covered by the training (administration and logistics). Finally, given the presence of other organizations - particularly the OAS - that provide advisory services in the same area (citizen training and education), the IIHR/CAPEL had to define its tasks and responsibilities well in order to avoid inconsistencies or duplication. The first, sensitive stage of the electoral process concluded with the primary elections. The international advisory assistance provided by the IIHR/CAPEL and other

organizations was important and ensured that the process went off smoothly. However, thanks to the support of the local USAID office, and on its recommendation, the IIHR/CAPEL will be conducting an evaluation to determine more precisely the lessons learned from this stage of the electoral process and in the run up to the general elections slated for November 2005.

The Eleventh Conference of the Quito Protocol provided an opportunity to discuss the oversight responsibilities of the electoral bodies, highlighting strengths and weaknesses that have to do with the life of political parties and how they are financed. The conference also allowed the IIHR/CAPEL to make further contacts for the heavy program of observation work it will be carrying out beginning around the end of 2005 and continuing throughout 2006. The event was also useful for involving the electoral bodies further in the ongoing efforts to strengthen political parties, generating interaction to increase the impact of the studies and the conclusions that have been obtained.

The research carried out and contacts made also enabled the IIHR/CAPEL to position itself on the subject of the strengthening of political parties. It engaged in successful negotiations with USAID (Washington and USAID local missions like Ecuador and El Salvador) and the Electoral Network is now more involved in this issue. One of the most important developments during the period was undoubtedly the progress made with the IIHR/CAPEL strategy for strengthening political parties, incorporating new results from research carried out with funding from other sources and the implementation of a new subregional workshop to determine priorities for future action, in this case in Central America and Dominican Republic. This made it possible to revise the work program and methodology of the IIHR/CAPEL that will be applied in Mexico and the Southern Cone in 2005. This is a fortunate link with the Equal Representation and Party Reform Project. The link between the strategy for strengthening electoral bodies and the one for political parties was perhaps seen most clearly at the Eighteenth Conference of the Tikal Protocol, whose theme was the democratization of political parties. Through these joint efforts, progress is being made toward the proposed objectives in both fields of action.

The IIHR/CAPEL also realized that, despite the progress made, the time had come to restructure the electronic link of its electoral network, not only to incorporate the initiative on political parties but also to adapt to the needs of new users and tap the new technologies available.

A period of intense work such as the one described, which included the continuity of specific projects and progress on more general matters, called for careful planning and execution, with only minor changes being made in the work plans for the period.

Especially important were the two consultations with political parties held in Asuncion and Mexico City. The IIHR/CAPEL now has a great deal of input garnered from all of continental Latin America and the Dominican Republic. The results are still being processed and compared, but the staff can already visualize many possibilities for future action to strengthen political parties. The latest consultations, following on from those held in Santiago, Chile (March 2004) and San Jose, Costa Rica (November 2004), bring to an end a very broad exercise and give renewed legitimacy to the strategic plan and plan of action that the IIHR/CAPEL will soon be completing. No other organization has conducted such a wide geographic consultation with the direct involvement of so many representatives of political parties.

Activities financed by other sources of international cooperation made it possible to extend the IIHR/CAPEL's action to Colombia during this period. Electoral officials were trained at a workshop held for the National Registry (April 2005) and a day of discussions with political parties took place

in Medellin on 28 June 2005. In both cases, the inputs developed under the USAID agreement were used, thereby increasing the scope of the impact of the activities.

The strategy devised by the IIHR-CAPEL's **Equal Representation and Political Party Reform** project to address the various aspects involved in the internal democratization of political parties proved to be correct and successful. This is true in both quantitative and qualitative terms. As already reported under the Strengthening Electoral Institutions component (with particular reference to the workshop *Agenda for strengthening political parties in Central America and the Dominican Republic*), between September 2004 and August 2005 the project progressed from purely academic activities to applied research focused on Bolivia, Chile and the Dominican Republic, while the IIHR/CAPEL also conducted research financed by Denmark's cooperation program for Central America and Panama ("*Internal democratization of political parties in Central America. Progress made and tasks pending*"). In addition to this, the project undertook two national efforts with concrete applications, in Chile and El Salvador.

In the case of this last activity, it is worth reiterating that the IIHR/CAPEL does not regard its assessments and academic studies simply as intellectual exercises or as input for the development of doctrine; on the contrary, regardless of whether they have been generated by a single donor, their basic objective is practical. A case in point is the research sponsored by Denmark's program for Central America and Panama (PRODECA), which proved to be extremely useful and provided strategic input for the report on El Salvador.

Thus, we moved from a primarily academic focus (one that combined *deskwork* with the *application of specialized consultation instruments*) to one involving a regional and subregional approach, which was then complemented with national experiences. In Chile, the project monitored campaign spending, a precondition for transparency, working with a high-profile, specialized NGO, PARTICIPA-Chile. In El Salvador, it helped outline a short- and medium-term strategy to enable the local USAID office to plot a course and define its priorities for supporting the political party system in that country.

The IIHR/CAPEL has demonstrated that this kaleidoscope of activities is both possible and viable; that they can be coordinated directly by the IIHR-CAPEL, its team of specialists or group of consultants, or by activating the various networks of academics, electoral bodies and citizen organizations that exert influence over political processes.

The study on the monitoring of campaign spending in Chile shows that the IIHR/CAPEL's strategic partnerships with prestigious civil society organizations like PARTICIPA-Chile have a positive impact on key issues (such as the financing and oversight of election spending, particularly as new legislation on this subject came into effect on 31 October 2004). The media are very interested in such studies and the electoral bodies and political actors draw on them to amend current regulations or implement them more effectively.

Based on the lessons learned from the election process in Chile, at least the following aspects of the law need to be modified:

- a. The state's contribution should be established in order to achieve some degree of equity in the spending of the different candidates. The results of the monitoring show that the difference in spending is enormous and that the candidates of small parties have no chance of projecting themselves among the citizenry. The current regulations do nothing to remedy this situation.

- b. The rates charged by service providers should be made public. That is the only way of determining with some degree of certainty how much the candidates and parties have spent.
- c. Increase the oversight functions of the Electoral Service. A law is only effective if stiff penalties exist to discourage people from breaking it. An independent agency is also needed to monitor effective compliance with the law. Under the current legislation, the Electoral Service does not have powers throughout the period of campaign spending, which is precisely when it is possible to monitor or control expenditures. Nor can it take the initiative in denouncing violations of the law; it can only take action after a candidate or political party lodges a complaint.
- d. The law should also permit members of the public to denounce violations, especially as it is a matter of public interest.
- e. The sanctions contemplated in the current law do not encourage people to comply with it. The fines currently imposed are twice, three or four times the amount that candidates overspend (based on the amounts candidates with economic resources specify in their projection of expenditures). It should be borne in mind that in some countries, candidates who break the law are barred from holding office.
- f. During the passage of the current law, a large segment of civil society called for clauses dealing with disclosure and transparency regarding the origin of the funds used for electioneering. This is particularly important in the case of donations from private sources and bearing in mind the enormous inequality in the spending of the different candidates and parties. The current legislation created a system of anonymous, confidential and public contributions. Only public contributions are disclosed (donations of over 600 UF to candidates or 3000 UF to political parties). The law encourages people to make anonymous or confidential donations. As donations of less than 20 UF are anonymous, contributors can simply divide their large donations into lots of small ones.

Finally, the assistance provided at the request of USAID-EI Salvador was very important. It involved the tricky task of defining a strategy, establishing priorities and pinpointing possible challenges and obstacles (achieved by means of a very rigorous methodology calling for the garnering, systematization and presentation of information provided by institutional and political stakeholders themselves). This constituted not only a vote of confidence in the IIHR/CAPEL's record and work but also confirmed that the strategy of institutional support from USAID-Washington to implement components under the cooperation agreement can be complemented with efforts to meet the concrete needs of local USAID offices in the different countries of the Americas. It also showed that efforts to democratize political parties can be carried out simultaneously at the regional, subregional and national levels.

During the period under review, a Democracy Fellow helped draft the preliminary version of the strategic plan for political parties. He took part in the workshops with political parties held in Paraguay and Mexico (under the Strengthening Electoral Institutions Project), consulting the different parties present. The project also hired Carlos Ávila. A Honduran consultant specializing in strategic plans, he served as Minister of Education under President Ricardo Maduro. They produced a draft strategic plan that needs to be studied and restructured. The guest researcher arrived late and the time available for preparing the plan was limited. The project staff later realized that more time was needed to develop a plan of this magnitude, which must incorporate the results of the IIHR/CAPEL's work in this field over the last three years.

During the final stage of the research on the democratization of political parties in Bolivia, Chile and the Dominican Republic, conclusions were reached that are very important not only for the three countries concerned but for the IIHR/CAPEL's overarching strategy for strengthening political parties. The staff identified both areas of progress and weaknesses with regard to democratization, placing the IIHR/CAPEL in the forefront as far as work on political parties is concerned. This research has also provided important input for the strategic plan. Combined with the consultations outlined under the previous component (Strengthening Electoral Institutions Project), the IIHR/CAPEL now has specialized knowledge on political parties that will stand it in good stead for work in this field for the next 3-5 years.

The IIHR/CAPEL believes that the research and consultations with political parties, the projection of the specialized publications that are to be produced and the embryonic strategic plan place it in a good position to exert influence over other levels of the life of political parties in Latin America.

The coordination called for in implementing the seminar "Evaluation of the implementation of the law to improve transparency and control and limit campaign spending in Chile" demonstrated the strengths and efficacy of the strategy of activating specialized networks. The IIHR/CAPEL regards the latter as extremely important. In addition to involving the Electoral Service and the Electoral Tribunal in this important task of controlling campaign spending, a fruitful relationship was established with the specialized NGO PARTICIPA. This led to a broad spectrum of the country's academics and politicians becoming interested in this issue, which is of key importance for the present stage of democratic development in Chile. The activity had a major impact both in academic terms and in promoting political rights. It repositioned on the public agenda a subject of vital importance in the run up to the December 2005 presidential elections.

The Director of the IIHR/CAPEL took part in a conference on action with political parties, in Washington (see UNIORE newsletter #48). This turned out to be important and the IIHR/CAPEL is now better placed and more qualified to share experiences with institutions that have been involved in this area for longer. This is especially important in the case of the democratization of political parties. The IIHR/CAPEL's studies have focused on issues that have barely been touched on before in projects that have to do with Latin American political parties.

There were interesting developments with regard to the activity "*Development and dissemination of concrete proposals for promoting the internal democratization of political parties*," which focused on Bolivia, Chile and the Dominican Republic. Having both a national perspective and those of different sectors made it possible to confirm that the research is valuable for strengthening political parties and especially with respect to the issue of democratization. It also led to the staff to rethink some of the areas for future work. Moreover, the meeting confirmed the wisdom of the strategy of consulting various sectors (academics, politicians, citizen organizations and donor agencies) and that our conclusions were correct. The meeting helped us to interpret the findings better but the most important thing was that they were validated. The meeting also enabled us to pinpoint future actions, which is important for defining actions as part of a strategic plan with political parties. Furthermore, consulting such a wide variety of stakeholders revealed the strong interest in strengthening political parties and that the issue can continue to be addressed from different perspectives.

Finally, we reached the conclusion that redesigning the Web page is not enough; it needs to be restructured to absorb new components, such as the work with political parties.

Conclusion:

In general, as the annual report by performance indicator of each project shows, **under USAID Cooperative Agreement LAG-A-00-02-00001-00, Promoting Human Rights through Inclusion, Conflict Prevention and Democratization in Latin America**, between September 2004 and August 2005 the IIHR continued to make a major contribution to the expansion and strengthening of the capacity of state-run institutions and civil society human rights networks to defend and promote human rights and build more inclusive democratic societies, by means of more comprehensive approaches, more consistent methodologies, more effective techniques and more up-to-date technologies. Furthermore, initiatives aimed at building more democratic societies that are more inclusive of diversity and respectful of human rights (creation or strengthening of ombudsman's offices, drafting and implementation of public policies, participation and inclusion of interests of excluded populations, etc.) are more sustainable.

The IIHR is thus closer to achieving the general strategic objective of this IIHR-USAID cooperation agreement, which is "to make a significant contribution to the construction of more inclusive and transparent democracies that promote the effective protection of human rights in the western hemisphere."

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

USAID COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT LAG-A-00-02-00001-00

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH INCLUSION, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND DEMOCRATIZATION IN LATIN AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROJECT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

September 2004 - August 2005

FINAL GOAL: To enhance the capabilities of CSOs that represent women and the indigenous and Afro-descendant populations for influencing the human rights agenda and thereby combat discrimination and promote the rights of these groups and their inclusion in democratic life

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: Increase in the involvement and the inclusion of the interests of women and the indigenous and Afro-descendant populations in the political and decision-making processes of the corresponding UN/OAS bodies and in national legislation or public policies

Annual Goal 1 (2004): To promote the inclusion of the interests and needs of the target populations in the agenda of the human rights movement and the results of OAS assemblies and specialized meetings

Activities	Impact Indicators 2004 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
Involvement of NGOs in inter-American meetings Objective: To ensure that the networks-organizations of each target population are represented in forums programmed by the OAS and meetings of civil society linked to the Inter-American System	Inclusion in the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the fundamental principles of collective rights and indigenous common law	To achieve the full and effective involvement of representatives of NGOs in the OAS's political and decision-making processes, and increase the inclusion of the interests of indigenous peoples in the human rights debate in the inter-American system, the project supported the participation of Dr. Eduardo Nieva, a representative of the Commission of Indigenous Jurists of Argentina in the fourth meeting of the negotiations to seek consensus, which was held 8-12 November 2004 in Washington, D.C. by the OAS Working Group in charge of preparing the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Prior to the activity, a two-day caucus was held with representatives of indigenous organizations from all parts of the hemisphere. They again designated Dr. Nieva as one of the three members of the technical-legal team in charge of advising the indigenous peoples, fine-tuning their proposals and taking a standardized proposal to present to the meeting. The methodology used by the indigenous representatives involved an initial analysis of the articles of the draft declaration by the three jurists and the presentation of a preliminary version to the caucus so it could discuss it and reach a consensus. This made it possible to present a united front in their dealings with the States in the plenary session. On 7 November 2005, the caucus met with the Chair of the Working Group, Ambassador Juan León, to discuss substantive issues such as the national consultations on the Draft Declaration, the meeting's concerns regarding the possible deadline for the Working Group to conclude its consultations, the restriction on the involvement of indigenous representatives in future sessions, the matters and proposals that enjoyed the support of a majority of the plenary, the use of brackets in the text and other key concerns. The IIHR official in charge of the issue took part in the meeting	Dr. Eduardo Nieva's report on proposals and results of the fourth round of negotiations to seek consensus on the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples Report of the Chair of the Working Group in charge of preparing the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Fourth round of negotiations to seek consensus (OAS/ser.K/XVIGT/DADIN 11/04). 29 December 2004

		and discussed the project with some of the indigenous leaders. She also discussed with Dr. Nieva the viability of some of the articles proposed by both the caucus and the States during the course of the activity.	
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Activities	Impact Indicators 2004-2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>National project: Legislation to ensure equality between women and men</p> <p>Objective: To facilitate an enabling environment for the enactment of the law guaranteeing equal opportunities for women and men in Peru, with the active involvement of the women's social movement and closely coordinating the efforts of the various actors involved</p>	<p>The women's social movement is better equipped to organize joint work and advocacy efforts</p> <p>Enlargement of alliances among different stakeholders</p> <p>NGOs, actors and decision-makers better acquainted with the draft legislation and its contents</p>	<p>The "Mujeres por la Igualdad de Oportunidades" Collective comprised the 10 networks-organizations that attended the Strategic Meeting in Costa Rica (2003). These were: the Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán; el Centro de Promoción y Capacitación del Oriente (CEPCO - Tarapoto); DEMUS - Estudio para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer; la Federación de Mujeres Organizadas de Comedores Populares Autogestionarios y Afines de Lima y Callao (FEMOCCPAALC); el Grupo Impulsor Nacional "Mujeres por la Igualdad Real" (GIN); el Movimiento Amplio de Mujeres - Línea Fundacional (MAM-LF); the Movimiento Manuela Ramos; Radio Milenia; the Red Nacional de Promoción de la Mujer (RNPM); and the Movimiento El Pozo. They worked in close coordination with the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights in Peru (CLADEM-Peru).</p> <p>The Collective met to coordinate and plan actions. Internally, the project working committees were set up for each strategy called for under the plan: a) coordination and mobilization; b) political advocacy; and, c) communication and dissemination.</p> <p>The workshops/meetings used a participatory and inclusive methodology that fostered training and the sharing of experiences and opinions among those who took part. The activities were also held in different provinces, to facilitate information sharing and dissemination among women in different geographical areas and from various sectors, thus ensuring that not everything was concentrated in the capital.</p> <p>Different forms of dissemination were used to reach urban and rural women and national, regional and local organizations through the mass media, personalized e-mailings and traditional mail. The use of technological communication platforms made it easier to send/receive invitations and information to/from a large number of people (email, discussion lists and electronic networks). The organizations also used their own resources (radio and television programs, printed and digital bulletins, Web pages, email discussion lists, etc.) to increase the coverage of the information and</p>	<p>Quarterly reports with annexes on the implementation of the work plan and the final evaluation of the process</p> <p>Reports or minutes of the working meetings of the counterparts</p> <p>Documentation of the different workshops/meetings held: invitations, programs, folders and background documentation distributed</p> <p>Lists of participant in every workshop/ meeting</p> <p>Digital bulletins, press articles and informational communications</p> <p>Up-to-date and expanded databases of women's and media organizations</p> <p>Official agendas of the Permanent Committee of the 2004-2005 legislature and the Women and Social Development Committee</p> <p>Presentations made at public hearing in Congress in 2005</p> <p>Declaration supporting a law guaranteeing equal opportunities for both genders signed by 18 Regional Counselors in 2005</p> <p>Technical documents, proposals and evaluations of the</p>

		<p>dissemination efforts. This was complemented with information on the processes and specialized information, available in the <i>DerechosMujer</i> section of the IIHR's website.</p> <p>The organizations have shown great interest in the information contained in the section, which is added to and updated continually. The number of hits has risen steadily during the project. In March 2004 there were 5330 hits (an average of 58 per day) but by June 2005 the number had risen to 22407 (an average of 246 per day).</p> <p>The process was systematized and placed online in <i>DerechosMujer</i>. Thus, the strategies used and work carried out are available to other organizations interested in the subject or engaged in similar activities.</p> <p>The working relationship developed with parliamentary advisors and sympathetic lawmakers has enabled the Collective to transmit positions, facilitate specialized documents and enjoy expeditious channels of communication in Congress.</p> <p>Discussion of the bill continues to be a priority of the equity and social justice agenda for the 2004-2005 legislative period, which concludes in June. If the bill is not debated by that month, it will be included in the next session of the legislature.</p>	<p>implementation of the project.</p> <p>Mission report</p> <p>Information available in the specialized section on the IIHR website, <i>DerechosMujer</i>. The address is: http://www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/DerechosMujer/</p> <p>The process was systematized and placed online so that other organizations can draw on the strategies used and work carried out: http://www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/DerechosMujer/acerca.htm</p> <p>Reports and statistics compiled using the WebTrends software, confirming the number of hits and visits to the specialized section</p>
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Annual Goal 2: To help strengthen advocacy activities within the framework of ongoing negotiating processes related to positive legislation or public policies that promote the rights of women and indigenous and Afro-descendant populations in selected countries			
Activities	Impact Indicators 2004-2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>National project: Legislation for indigenous peoples</p> <p>Objective: To facilitate an enabling environment for promoting the enactment of Colombia's Land Management Act (LOOT)</p>	<p>Indigenous organizations are better equipped to organize joint work and advocacy efforts</p>	<p>The objective of the project, for which the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC) was responsible, was to: a) position the indigenous peoples politically, so that through their national organization and macro-regional, district, regional and local organizations they could take decisions and help define a strategy for influencing the proposed Land Management Act (LOOT), which is designed to promote the territorial, cultural and political integrity of Colombia's indigenous peoples; b) promote the exercise and defense of key principles of the indigenous movement, such as autonomy, governability, territory, culture and unity. This led the ONIC to produce a territorial policy paper in which it prioritized the territorial needs of Colombia's indigenous peoples. A matrix was prepared to gather the pertinent data and visualize the territorial situation of the indigenous peoples, in order to establish territorial needs and priorities.</p> <p>During the period under review, the situation in Colombia continued to deteriorate due to the internal armed conflict, with persistent violations of the human rights of indigenous peoples and international humanitarian law, while their communities were</p>	<p>Reports on the ONIC's activities under the project during the reporting period</p> <p>Up-to-date document on indigenous territories, distributed and discussed in the workshops</p> <p>Text of the bill (016/03 in the Senate and 270/04 in the Lower House) distributed among the participants in the workshops</p>

		<p>increasingly harassed by the armed groups in many regions of the country. Threats, arbitrary detentions, forced recruitment, disappearances, murders, torture and the occupation of their territories and holy places were commonplace occurrences. The situation was compounded by disregard for their traditional authorities and forced displacement. Much of the responsibility for intervening in the situation fell to the ONIC, which used its own resources and also secured assistance from sympathetic institutions in order to carry out monitoring and follow-up efforts and provide support to the populations affected, visiting every corner of the national territory.</p> <p>Despite this situation, six events were held in September and October 2004 to continue evaluating and reorienting organizational policies. The indigenous organizations also implemented political advocacy activities at the regional and national levels with regard to the enactment of Colombia's Land Management Act. They took place in: a) Resguardo Mayabangloma, Municipality of Fonseca, Dept. of Guajira, with 100 members of the Wayuu, Wiwa, Yupka, Mokaaná and Senú peoples; b) Bogotá, Cundinamarca, with 15 delegates from the Muisca, Pijao and Bari peoples; c) Villavicencio, Del Meta Dept., with 37 delegates from organizations belonging to the ONIC in that region; d) Florencia, Dept. of Caquetá, with 60 delegates from organizations belonging to the ONIC in the region; e) Minga por Territorio, Vida y Dignidad de los Pueblos Indigenas in Cali, Sincelejo, Riohacha, Barranquilla and Bogotá; f) Pereira, Risaralda, workshop on territory, with 19 people from the ONIC, Alianza Social Indigena, the Indigenous Regional Council of Risaralda and the Subregional Organization of Orinoquia.</p> <p>Between January and May 2005, the situation changed, as the Inclusion Project that began in 2003 ended on 20 May 2005. The project was authorized to use the resources generated under the Negotiated Indirect Cost-Rate Agreement (NICRA) beginning 1 March 2005. Prior to that, the staff conducted an analysis and selected the activities that would be implemented during the period. The latter had to be modified in the case of the national projects in Colombia (National legislation for indigenous peoples) and Panama (Facilitate enabling environment to promote equal opportunities in the job market for the Afro-descendant population in Panama). In the first case, and as planned, a <i>National workshop to provide follow-up to the territorial agenda of Colombia's indigenous peoples</i> was held 16-17/05/05. The objective was to monitor and evaluate the progress of the ONIC's efforts to implement the territorial agenda of Colombia's indigenous peoples. Twenty-three people took part, including the indigenous delegates of the National Commission for Indigenous Territories (CNTI), indigenous lawmakers and members of indigenous organizations that were involved in the project from the outset, such as OPIAC and AICO.</p> <p>In September 2004 and May 2005, the IIHR Program Officer in charge of this project (from the Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Program) carried out technical assistance missions.</p>	<p>Invitation to the Gran Minga.</p> <p>Press releases</p> <p>Bulletins</p> <p>Interviews on national TV channels, radio stations, national and regional newspapers</p> <p>Bulletins "Desde el Camino" ("From the road")</p> <p>Parliamentary and media databases</p> <p>IIHR quarterly reports on activities (July-Sept and Oct-Dec 2004 and Jan-March and Apr-May 2005) and their annexes, on the implementation of the work plan</p> <p>ONIC and ACIN website</p> <p>Information available in the specialized section of the IIHR website (<i>Diversidades</i>)</p> <p>Reports and statistics compiled using the WebTrends software, confirming hits and visits to the section</p>
	Enlargement of alliances among various actors and sectors	<p>Between September 2004 and May 2005, the project continued to interact with parliamentary, political and governmental actors in order to keep up the pressure for the enactment of the LOOT.</p> <p>The national process of building consensus with the State continued, leading to an</p>	<p>Report of the Workshop-meeting</p> <p>Quarterly report on</p>

		<p>agreement being negotiated with the Colombian Rural Development Institute (INCODER) that laid the groundwork for developing the institution's mission with regard to indigenous peoples and advancing the process of legalizing the territories (creating, expanding and clearing title to them).</p> <p>The issue of indigenous territories and the constitutional reforms that affect indigenous and popular rights were incorporated into the mobilization called Gran Minga por Territorio, Vida y Dignity de los Pueblos Indigenas (13-16/09/04), in Cali, Sincelejo, Riohacha, Barranquilla and Bogotá.</p> <p>Meetings with indigenous lawmakers took place to discuss the LOOT.</p>	<p>activities (July-September 2004)</p> <p>Invitation to the mobilization</p> <p>News items in the media</p>
	NGOs and CSOs, actors and decision-makers better acquainted with the contents of the draft legislation	<p>Between September 2004 and May 2005, various documents were prepared to carry out the project's dissemination strategies. They included: a) the reproduction and dissemination of the text of the Senate bill 016/03 and Lower House bill 270/04; b) the document on indigenous territories that was used in the workshops mentioned; c) the document inviting people to the Gran Minga and leaflets about the event; d) websites of the ONIC and the ACIN, and the specialized section of the IIHR website (<i>Diversidades</i>); e) "Desde el Camino" bulletins; f) press releases; and, g) bulletins.</p> <p>The IIHR also continued to develop <i>Diversidades</i>, the specialized section of its website. In addition to posting daily news updates of interest to the people taking part in the project, it prepares a biweekly bulletin that is emailed to the large number of people registered in its database, which is also updated regularly. To wind up the project, the national projects were also systematized - to provide, among other things, examples of "best practices" in this area. The information includes not only a chronological history of the entire process and some of the main activities carried out, but also the most important documents produced since 2003, which can be accessed via links. An analysis of the statistics for the period under review, which, due to the software used includes July-Sep and Oct-Dec 20, 2004 and Jan-March and Apr-July 2005 (although the project ended on May 20, 2005) shows a large increase both in the number and length of visits: July-Sept 2004 (10:02), 12,728 visits (daily average: 138); Oct-Dec 2004 (12:57), 12,072 visits (daily average: 131); Jan-March 2005 (13:24), 15,753 visits (daily average: 175); Apr-June 2005 (13:35), 24,908 visits (daily average: 273).</p>	<p>IIHR quarterly reports on activities (2004 and 2005)</p> <p>Specialized diagnostic document</p> <p>Reports on workshops</p> <p>Databases of parliamentary actors and media organizations</p> <p>Information available in the specialized section of the IIHR website (<i>Diversidades</i>) http://www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/Diversidades/</p> <p>Reports and statistics compiled using the WebTrends software, confirming the number of hits and visits to the section</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators 2004-2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>National project: Combating discrimination against the Afro-descendant population</p> <p>Objective: To facilitate an enabling environment for promoting equal opportunities in the job market for the Afro-descendant population in Panama</p>	<p>Afro-Panamanian organizations are better equipped to organize joint work and advocacy efforts</p>	<p>Between September 2004 and May 2005, the first phase of the implementation of the Strategic Afro-Panamanian Advocacy Plan was completed. Therefore, the Afro-Panamanian Forum - the counterpart in charge of the project - presented a proposal to the IIHR to extend the work through December 2004 in view of the change of government (a new President and Congress took office) in September 2004). The set of initiatives and activities called for in the proposal were keyed to three objectives: a) to continue to develop the conceptual design of the National Master Plan for the Sustainable Development of Afro-Panamanians; b) to form part of the team negotiating with the new government; and, c) to continue the Forum's workshops with the rest of civil society and lawmakers, to secure the passing of the bill that would institute measures to promote equal opportunities for women and men in Panama's labor market and eliminate discriminatory practices.</p> <p>The members of the Forum worked together to prepare a third version of the Master Plan that was presented to the government by Oscar Ceville, the person in charge of the Social Agenda of President Torrijos. As a result, the Forum was asked to prepare proposed public policies for implementing the Plan, which was submitted in December 2004.</p> <p>As explained previously, between January and May 2005 the situation changed as the Inclusion Project that began in 2003 concluded on 20 May 2005, thanks to additional support covered by the resources generated under the Negotiated Indirect Cost-Rate Agreement (NICRA). The project was authorized to use these resources beginning 1 March 2005. Prior to that, the staff conducted an analysis and selected the activities that would be implemented during the period under the national projects in Colombia (National legislation for indigenous peoples) and Panama (Facilitate enabling environment to promote equal opportunities in the job market for the Afro-descendant population in Panama).</p> <p><i>Meeting on the implementation of the Strategic Afro-Panamanian Advocacy Plan.</i> Panama City, 14 May. The objectives of this event were to: a) report on the work carried out under the <i>Strategic Afro-Panamanian Advocacy Plan</i>; b) Officially present the conceptual underpinnings of the <i>National sectoral master plan for the sustainable development of Afro-Panamanians</i>; c) publicize the underpinnings of, and the model used for, the sectoral plan <i>The path to sustainable development: the Afro-descendant community's proposal for a national development plan</i>; d) report on the impact of the <i>Draft bill to promote equal employment opportunities in Panama. Law 11 of April 2005</i>; e) IIHR: evaluate the advocacy project and the conference; f) study the incorporation of the ombudsman's office into the Afro-Panamanian advocacy plan, to address human rights issues; and, g) study the proposal prepared by the Panama City Mayor's Office. Thirty-two people took part in the meeting and the officer from the IIHR's Program to Combat Racism provided technical assistance.</p>	<p>Quarterly report on activities</p> <p>Documentation of the different workshops/meetings held: invitations, programs, folders, posters, leaflets and background documentation distributed</p> <p>Lists of participants in each workshop/meeting</p> <p>Proposals and documents for the negotiations (Strategic Afro-Panamanian Advocacy Plan; 3rd version of the National Master Plan for the Sustainable Development of Afro-Panamanians; Profile of the team of the Bipartite Commission)</p> <p>Document <i>La Ruta hacia un Desarrollo Sostenible</i></p>

	Enlargement of alliances among various actors and sectors	<p>With regard to advocacy actions and alliances, further meetings were held with Panamanian consultants, intellectuals and professionals to discuss the strategies to be implemented, prepare specialized documents and assign the tasks involved in the different lobbying, negotiating and other activities identified, both with members of the Executive Branch, lawmakers and officials of the Judicial Branch and the Electoral Tribunal of Panama. The results of the activities were as follows: a) Law 11 of 22 April 2005 <i>"Which prohibits labor discrimination and adopts measures"</i>; b) Executive Decree No. 124 of 27 May 2005, <i>"Creating a special commission to develop a government policy for the full inclusion of black Panamanians"</i>; c) Amendment to Article 9 of the Electoral Code of 10 March 2005, <i>"Granting prisoners the right to vote"</i>; and, d) Afro-Panamanian proposal for the transformation of justice of 22 April 2005, presented to the State Justice Commission in Panama, as a result of which the community was invited to take part in the work of the <i>State Justice Commission</i>. All these proposals were contained in the Strategic Afro-Panamanian Advocacy Plan.</p>	<p>Quarterly reports on activities</p> <p>Databases of various actors and media organizations</p> <p>Draft bill and Law 11 of 22 April 2005</p> <p>Decree Executive No. 124 of 27 May 2005</p> <p>Amendment to Art. 9 of the Electoral Code of 10 March 2005</p> <p>Afro-Panamanian proposal for overhauling the administration of justice (22 April 2005)</p> <p>Media news items</p>
	NGOs, civil society entities, actors and decision-makers better informed about the discrimination against the Afro-descendant population that exists in Panama's labor market	<p>Between September 2004 and May 2005), the project continued to disseminate the contents of the three documents on which the advocacy efforts carried out under this national project were based: a) the Political Platform of Afro-Panamanians, setting out their aspirations and guidelines for public policies under 16 different headings (this was presented to the candidates in the 2004 presidential elections, who pledged to implement them if elected); b) the draft bill to guarantee equal opportunities in the labor market; and, c) the profile and proposed National Master Plan for the Sustainable Development of Afro-Panamanians.</p> <p>During the period under review, the various information/dissemination/communication activities continued during this quarter, via local TV channels and the printed and digital editions of newspapers (<i>La Prensa</i> and <i>Panamá América</i>), other websites (<i>Expresiones para una Sociedad Participativa</i>) and the publications of the Afro-Panamanian organizations themselves (bulletins, press releases, etc.).</p> <p>The IIHR also continued to develop <i>Diversidades</i>, the specialized section of its website. In addition to posting daily news updates of interest to the people taking part in the project, it prepares a biweekly bulletin that is emailed to the large number of people registered in its database, which is also updated regularly. To wind up the project, the national projects were also systematized - to provide, among other things, examples of "best practices" in this area. The information includes not only a</p>	<p>Quarterly reports on activities</p> <p>Documents containing the communication strategies designed</p> <p>Distribution of the document "La Ruta hacia un Desarrollo Sostenible" among various sectors of the population, both Afro-Panamanians and others</p> <p>Media news items</p> <p>Fliers, posters, documents for mass distribution</p> <p>Use of electronic</p>

		chronological history of the entire process and some of the main activities carried out, but also the most important documents produced since 2003, which can be accessed via links. An analysis of the number of hits registered during the reporting period, which, due to the software used includes July-Sep and Oct-Dec 20 th , 2004 and Jan-March and Apr-July 2005 (although the project concluded on May 20, 2005) shows a large increase in both the number and length of visits, as already noted.	dissemination media Information available in the specialized section of the IIHR website (<i>Diversidades</i>) http://www.iidh.ed.cr/comunidades/Diversidades/ Reports and statistics compiled using the WebTrends software, confirming the number of hits and visits to the section
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How was progress made in achieving the performance indicator of the project PROMOTING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION?

The objective of the inclusion component was to enhance the capacity of women's, indigenous and Afro-descendant organizations to influence the agenda of the civil society human rights movement, as part of their efforts to translate equality before the law into real equality. This will permit the groups they represent to exercise their rights more fully and help strengthen democracy.

To achieve this objective, during the reporting period the project continued to implement systematic, strategic actions aimed at increasing the participation, influence, and the inclusion of the interests, of the target populations. An indigenous lawyer, Dr. Eduardo Nieva, was heavily involved in the *Fourth meeting of the negotiations to seek consensus on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which was preceded by a caucus of delegates from indigenous peoples in the region. Dr. Nieva played a leading role in the activity as one of the three legal experts chosen by the indigenous peoples themselves to advise them on their proposals to the States and to fine-tune and standardize the texts. This moved the process a step further forward compared to the three previous activities. Dr Nieva also lobbied his government and this had an impact on the negotiations regarding the articles under discussion. Another very positive development was the meeting with the Chair of the Working Group in charge of preparing the Draft Declaration. Substantive issues of importance to the region's native peoples were discussed, such as the national consultations on the Draft Declaration, the caucus' concerns regarding the possible deadline for concluding the Working Group's consultations, the restriction on the participation of indigenous representatives in future sessions, the matters and proposals that enjoyed the support of a majority of the plenary, etc. Progress was made in including the interests of indigenous peoples in this difficult negotiation mechanism, demonstrating that enhancing the advocacy capabilities of their representatives was the right way to go in terms of the strengthening and practice of democracy. The Program Officer of the IIHR's Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Program is in charge of this component of the Inclusion Project. She also took part in the meeting and was able to discuss the project with some of the indigenous leaders present. She also discussed with Dr. Nieva the viability of some of the articles proposed both by the caucus and by the States during the course of the activity. The jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on indigenous peoples has proved to be an important resource for modifying some of the articles under discussion.

Throughout the project, and based on the results of the Strategic Meeting at which national processes in Peru, Panama and Colombia were planned and coordinated (in August 2003), actions were undertaken to promote positive legislation with regard to the rights of women and the Afro-descendant and indigenous populations. This led to the coordination of actions to strengthen advocacy efforts among civil society organizations and between them and political actors and institutions (representatives of the state, the Executive and Legislative Branches, the Ombudsman). Both in Panama and Peru, organizations representing other target populations also got behind the bills, thus contributing to one of the project's objectives, which is to expand alliances involving various actors and sectors (in Panama, women supported the efforts to pass a law guaranteeing non-discrimination in the workplace and in Peru, the Afro-descendant community supported the law on equality). The dissemination and information strategies were also strengthened during the period

under review, with international human rights protection instruments and domestic laws being widely disseminated. Thanks to the media coverage in the different countries, the citizenry is better acquainted with the draft legislation in question.

In 2004 and 2005, the project's representatives worked hard to influence the parliamentary actors in *Peru*. As a result, the bill made considerable progress on the legislative agenda compared to the situation described in the last report. It was included in the 2004-2005 legislative agenda and given priority status in the area of equity and social justice. Developments in the national political arena affect the parliamentary agenda and, when the project concluded in May 2005, the bill had still not been debated for the first time. Although it remains a priority item on the agenda, the two committees (Justice and Human Rights and Women and Social Development) have still not reached agreement on a single text based on their respective reports for submission to parliament. If they fail to come to an agreement by June 2005, when the legislative year ends, the matter will have to be addressed by the next legislature. However, the working relationship developed with parliamentary advisors and sympathetic lawmakers has enabled the Collective to transmit positions, facilitate specialized documents and enjoy expeditious channels of communication in Congress. Having direct contact with lawmakers who support the bill and members of parliamentary committees that are key for promoting the bill in the legislature makes it possible to provide more information about women's rights and exert greater influence. In Peru, the project was instrumental in achieving the close coordination of a wide range of civil society organizations involved with women's rights, promoted by the "Women for Equal Opportunities" Collective. Hitherto there had been only limited efforts by a group of organizations that did not network or coordinate their efforts in a sustained way. Setting up the Collective made it possible to establish common agendas and interests, discuss issues and strategies together, and coordinate the work and enhance the resources of each organization. The bill also became one of the core issues on the agenda of the women's social movement. The counterpart organizations have stated that the IIHR's constant monitoring, follow-up and technical assistance, both virtual and onsite, have contributed to the effective and efficient implementation of the projects under way. The continuity of the information processes (contributions were systematized and bulletins and various documents about the bill were disseminated) helped increase the amount of knowledge and information in the hands of women of various organizations. The press and television were used to provide the organizations and the general public with more information about women's rights and the draft legislation.

The progress made under the national project in *Panama* is clear for all to see: the Afro-Panamanian movement is stronger, its influence has increased and several of the goals set in the *Strategic Afro-Panamanian advocacy plan*, drawn up following the Strategic Meeting in 2003, have been achieved. The latter include: a) Law 11 of 22 April 2005 "*Which prohibits labor discrimination and adopts measures*"; b) Executive Decree No. 124 of 27 May 2005, "*Creating a special commission to develop a government policy for the full inclusion of black Panamanians*"; c) Amendment to Article 9 of the Electoral Code of 10 March 2005, "*Granting prisoners the right to vote*"; and, d) Afro-Panamanian proposal for the transformation of justice of 22 April 2005, presented to the *State Justice Commission* in Panama, as a result of which the community was invited to take part in its work. The actions got under way in a complex sociopolitical context (the ongoing electoral process) that turned out to be a boon as far as the success of the Afro-Panamanian initiatives was concerned. One of the project's strategies involved drafting a 16-point political platform and presenting it to the presidential candidates. This was a key factor in what was achieved.

In *Colombia*, the indigenous peoples continue to face serious human rights problems on account of the internal armed conflict. These include persistent violations of their fundamental rights and international humanitarian law, while their communities are increasingly harassed by the armed groups in many regions of the country. Threats, arbitrary detentions, forced recruitment, disappearances, murders, torture and the occupation of their territories and holy places are commonplace occurrences. The situation is compounded by disregard for their traditional authorities and forced displacement. The ONIC therefore carried out monitoring and follow-up activities, and provided support to the populations affected, visiting every corner of the national territory in doing so. Significant progress was achieved despite the difficulties, including the positioning of the indigenous peoples, so that through their national organization and macro-regional, district, regional and local organizations they were able to take decisions and help define a strategy for influencing the proposed Land Management Act (LOOT). The bill is intended to promote the territorial, cultural and political integrity of Colombia's indigenous peoples, and strengthen and promote the exercise and defense of key principles of the indigenous movement, such as autonomy, governability, territory, culture and unity. This led the ONIC to produce a territorial policy paper in which it prioritized the territorial needs of Colombia's indigenous peoples. Six events were held in 2004 to continue evaluating and reorienting organizational policies in the current situation. The indigenous organizations also implemented political advocacy activities at the regional and national levels with regard to the enactment of the LOOT. All this culminated with the implementation, in 2005, of a

National workshop to provide follow-up to the territorial agenda of Colombia's indigenous peoples. The objective of this activity was to monitor and evaluate the actions and progress of the work of the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC) in implementing the indigenous peoples' territorial agenda, and design strategies and program future actions in this area. The Program Officer in charge of the component supported the implementation of the project and carried out two technical missions to Colombia, in 2004 and 2005.

Two points are worth mentioning. Firstly, throughout the period under review the project continued to interact with parliamentary, political and governmental actors in order to keep up the pressure for the enactment of the LOOT. New contacts were made and the likelihood of priority issues of the indigenous agenda being taken on board by various sectors of the government increased. The national process of building consensus with the State led to an agreement being negotiated with the Colombian Rural Development Institute (INCODER) that laid the groundwork for developing the institution's mission with regard to the indigenous peoples and advancing the process of legalizing the territories (creating, expanding and clearing title to them). Secondly, the training and dissemination actions carried out during the project made it possible to establish, develop or strengthen the indigenous movement's operating capabilities (legal, for advocacy, leadership, internal and external coordination, political, etc.).

Another positive aspect was the sustained growth of the specialized sections of the Institute's website, *Diversidades* (indigenous peoples, efforts to combat racism) and *DerechosMujer*. The content grew steadily during the reporting period, demonstrating the interest of the target populations not only in the information on offer but also in submitting different types of news, documents, legislation, the addresses of new organizations and other material, all of which was incorporated into the two sections. Information is a useful tool for coordinating organizations, disseminating specialized material to support the drafting of legislation and other working proposals, identifying consultants and providing follow-up to the work of legislative bodies and others that support the inclusion of the target population.

The national projects had a bigger impact because they not only helped develop and enhance the expertise of the members of the organizations involved but also that of other networks-organizations that forged partnerships with the counterparts during the course of the work. This had a positive impact on their leadership capabilities and working proposals, conceptual documents and the promotion of various advocacy, lobbying and negotiating efforts aimed at different state actors and other institutions linked to these projects. This was particularly noticeable in Colombia and Peru. One of the objectives proposed at the Strategic Meeting was that of raising the profile of the populations concerned. The results were even better than expected, especially in case of Panama, where there was a marked increase in the amount of news coverage of the Afro-Panamanian population's achievements and in-depth reports on their predicament. In conclusion, if both populations have greater and more equitable access to political and citizen participation, and to the opportunities and benefits of sustainable development, governability, inclusive democracy and the rule of law will grow and the dangers posed by the extreme poverty, marginalization and exclusion of Colombia's indigenous peoples and Afro-Panamanians will decrease.

**USAID COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT LAG-A-00-02-00001-00
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH INCLUSION, CONFLICT PREVENTION
AND DEMOCRATIZATION IN LATIN AMERICA**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROJECT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
(September 2004-August 2005)**

PROJECT: CITIZEN SECURITY IN LATIN AMERICA: DEVELOPING A NATIONAL AND LOCAL APPROACH

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: Institutions and civil society have enhanced capabilities for tackling the problem of insecurity from the human rights perspective

Annual Goal 1 (2004): Technical assistance to public institutions and civil society organizations in designing and implementing a public citizen security policy in the Dominican Republic			
Activities	Impact Indicators 2004 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of verification
Implementation missions in Dominican Republic Objective: To support the implementation of the public citizen security policy in political circles and among lawmakers	Enhanced institutional capabilities for designing and implementing public citizen security policies Progress in implementing public citizen security policies	The authorities asked the IIHR to assist them with the modernization and institution building process for the Dominican police force, part of the overhaul of the citizen security system. The project carried out a technical mission in October 2004 and held a Strategic Planning Workshop 3-5 December 2004 with the Chief of Police and other senior officers. At the workshop, project staff presented the proposed "Plan for Modernizing the National Police of the Dominican Republic" drafted by the IIHR's team as part of the public security policy. The beneficiaries approved the plan unanimously and the project has provided permanent advisory assistance for the implementation of the actions called for in the Plan, which continued during 2005. Technical support has also been provided in other areas related to the Citizen Security Policy, such as the democratic and political management of security and community participation.	Document <i>"Strategy for Modernizing the National Police of the Dominican Republic."</i> <i>"Declaration of Juan Dolio"</i> of 5 December 2004. Evaluations by the participants in the Strategic Planning Workshop Creation of follow-up committees, as an indicator that the institution took on board the Modernization Plan and the changes required for its implementation are being instituted. Ads and news items in the media (press and television) about the approval of the modernization process

		<p>The <i>Declaration of Juan Dolio</i> was signed as a legal underpinning of the meeting and the decisions taken. The parties involved decided that <i>Implementation Committees</i> were needed to support the modernization, professionalization and institutionalization of the National Police. In the coming months, these committees, comprising two or three senior officers, will be responsible for presenting the specific operating plans needed to implement the Strategic Plan to the <i>Follow-up Committee</i> (also created during the meeting).</p>	
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Annual Goal 1 (2005): To support the process of security sector reform by helping to implement a public citizen security policy in the Dominican Republic			
Activities	Impact Indicators 2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of verification
<p>Technical assistance in implementing the Reform of the Police Force as part of the Citizen Security Policy in the Dominican Republic</p> <p>Objective: To provide technical assistance with the implementation of the measures called for in the Police Modernization Plan crafted and approved in 2004 as part of the Public Citizen Security Policy</p>	Enhanced institutional capabilities for designing and implementing measures to guarantee citizen security as part of a public security policy	During the first half of 2005, the IIHR's assistance focused on supporting the modernization and institutional strengthening of the Dominican police force, through implementation of the "Strategy for the Institutional Strengthening of the National Police in the Dominican Republic," approved by the Minister of the Interior and the Chief of Police in December 2004 as part of the Public Citizen Security Policy. Two specialized technical missions visited the country and other work was carried out, including the drafting of documents and analyses, with constant advisory support from the IIHR team during the period in question. The two missions took place 20-26 February and 15-20 May 2005. The second mission was especially important following the issuing of Presidential Decree 264-05, prepared with the IIHR's assistance and signed into law by the President, Leonel Fernández. The decree unveiled the Democratic Security Plan to tackle the crime and growing insecurity in the country,	<p>Presidential Decree 264-05</p> <p>"Community Policing Strategy" document</p> <p>Proposal for implementing a system for gathering, processing and analyzing crime-related information</p> <p>Internal directive instituting the organizational-operational restructuring of the Police, creating the Preventive Police and the Detective Police</p> <p>Mission reports and evaluations of the internal workshops</p> <p>Ads and news items in the media (press and television)</p>

		<p>making it a national priority. As well as setting out the background, rationale and objectives of the reform, the decree has three main sections, each of which contains a large number of activities and goals: a) Strengthen the police force; b) Incorporate the dimension of community policing; and, c) Define the relationship between the police and the armed forces. Project staff assisted the National Police in designing the program for implementing the Democratic Security Plan referred to in the decree.</p> <p>The project also focused on strengthening the preventive security area. Prior to the mission, the group of consultants had prepared two key documents. The first contains a Community Policing Strategy and was presented to the institution at a workshop organized especially for the purpose. The basic components of this strategy were discussed and approved.</p> <p>The second document contains a Proposal for implementing a system for gathering, processing and analyzing crime-related information. This was also presented at an internal workshop with the police's specialists in the georeferencing of crime.</p> <p>Meetings took place with the Minister of the Interior, the Attorney General, a number of senior police officers and the Chief of the National Police, Gen. Manuel de Jesús Pérez Sánchez. The project was thus able to advise the people responsible for implementing the actions called for.</p> <p>On the recommendation of the IIHR team, an internal directive was issued that instituted an organizational-operational restructuring of the police force, creating the "Preventive Police" and the "Detective Police."</p>	
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Annual Goal 2 (2005): To strengthen community participation in the democratic construction of security in Argentina

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of verification
<p>Training seminars for the Neighborhood Security Forums in the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina</p> <p>Objective: To enhance the capacity for participation of the grassroots organizations that belong to the Neighborhood Security Forums</p>	<p>Mechanisms for community participation strengthened as a new democratic model for building security</p>	<p>The training seminars were programmed in two phases: the first took place during the week of 19-22 April 2005 and the second on 20 May 2005. The seminars were entitled "Latin American Experiences of Controlling Police Conduct and Community Prevention of Violence." Designed to "train trainers," they were targeted at one representative of each forum, with 250 people taking part in each 1½-day activity. The objectives of the seminars were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop mechanisms for citizen control of police conduct, based on evaluation instruments that make it possible to consolidate a strategy whereby citizens' organizations can scrutinize the activities of the Buenos Aires police • Enhance the forums' capacity to implement community crime prevention projects • Develop capabilities and positioning for the definition of public security policies with input from the local level <p>The response to the first activity was very positive. Indeed, the citizenry was so keen to explore the issue of the social prevention of crime in greater depth that another, large-scale, one-day seminar was organized, also targeted at representatives of security forums in the province. These were joined by CSOs involved in the issue and youth organizations that are promoting local, community and neighborhood actions and the prevention of juvenile violence by working with groups that are at risk and/or have problems with the law. Held 20 May 2005, the seminar was entitled "Latin American Experiences of Work with Young People." It attracted 1400 people.</p>	<p>List of participants in the training seminars</p> <p>Evaluations presented by the participants</p> <p>Anthologies containing educational materials on topics dealt with at the training seminars</p>

How was progress made in achieving the performance indicator of the CITIZEN SECURITY project?

***“Enhanced institutional capabilities for designing and implementing measures to guarantee security, as part of a public security policy”
- Dominican Republic***

As designed, the Strategy for Modernizing the National Police of the Dominican Republic provides a roadmap for the assistance that is being given. It is a cornerstone of the country's new citizen security policy and, more specifically, of the institutional strategy that should be implemented prior or parallel to a comprehensive crime control strategy. Thus, it forms part of the reform and modernization of the citizen security system and is designed specifically to enable the police to carry out efficient crime prevention and control strategies and criminal investigations, doing away with the anachronisms and weaknesses that exist.

A comprehensive, democratic citizen security policy calls for a police system that performs its basic tasks of crime prevention and criminal investigation efficiently, strictly observing the principle of due process and the duty to protect human rights, as the best way to guarantee the right to citizen security and the human rights that it entails.

The indicators of progress are:

1. The existence of a roadmap for instituting change within the Dominican police force, based on the guidelines produced by the IIHR, which were discussed with and validated by the police themselves. The government has also adopted the document as a position paper for its security policy.
2. Many senior Dominican National Police officers, including the Chief of Police and the Director of the “Preventive Police,” are totally committed to bringing about change.
3. Initiatives are already under way to bring about change, with modern ideas endorsed by the public and the highest levels of the government. They include the organizational-operational restructuring of the Police through the creation of the “Preventive Police” and the “Detective Police,” with separate bodies of doctrine and strategies that reflect the move toward professionalization.
4. The existence of an interinstitutional body for coordinating security issues headed by the Minister of the Interior and the Police.
5. A Presidential Decree declaring the Democratic Security Plan a national priority. Combined with the internal provisions of the police force, this creates a legal framework for the reform measures already implemented and those that will be.
6. The importance of the IIHR's technical and facilitating role in the Dominican Republic is widely acknowledged and there is strong support for its continued involvement.

Since 2003, the IIHR has been involved in different stages of the design and management of a democratic public security policy in the Dominican Republic and, as part of it, in the process of overhauling the National Police.

The importance of the participatory assessment. The Institute's work began with the participatory assessment, involving the National Police and civil society stakeholders. A key activity was the first workshop, held in October 2003, to kick off the assessment of the National Police and citizen security in the Dominican Republic. This workshop, together with a number of one-on-one meetings and the presentation of its conclusions to civil society and NGOs, validated the findings and opened the doors for the IIHR to continue its assistance.

Initially - in late 2003 -, the assessment was not accepted by the police hierarchy and they did not disseminate it properly within the institution. However, the assessment contained recommendations and offered useful solutions. Since then, the police themselves have stated that it was the best assessment of the institution ever carried out.

The validation and official endorsement of the proposals. The National Police validated the assessment and its proposals following the appointment of the present Minister of the Interior and the new Chief of Police. During this new stage, the IIHR's assessment and proposals were officially taken on board as the basis for a new police reform strategy.

At the end of 2004, another phase got under way: after helping to prepare documents on security policy, the IIHR worked on a proposed strategy for the reform of the police. The meetings in Juan Dolio with the new Police Chief and officers from different units led to the completion of the Modernization Strategy, and the harmonization of the new doctrine, policy and strategy.

The IIHR thus contributed to the President's decision, in the first quarter of 2005, to implement a Democratic Security Plan. He then issued a decree creating a committee to provide follow-up to the plan and formulate a program for implementing it.

The implementation of the police reform process. This is the third stage of the process and the IIHR has focused on this work during its most recent missions. The IIHR's proposals led to the creation of a new police structure, which includes the so-called "Preventive Police" and the "Investigative Police."

Evaluating the current situation objectively, it is no exaggeration to say that the authorities place great faith in the IIHR's technical assistance. The project's endeavors have been matched by commitments and sweeping changes in the security field. This has occurred since the project progressed from the assessment phase in 2003 to the current implementation stage.

The institutional and political will for change seen in the changes already instituted also makes the actions that are about to be implemented highly sustainable. The important thing is not to leave such an important effort half done. There is strong momentum for the activity but it still requires international cooperation if its success is to be fully consolidated.

"Mechanisms for community participation strengthened as a new democratic model for building security" - Buenos Aires, Argentina

The participation of large numbers of organizations in the seminars demonstrates the level of interest in, and demand for, opportunities to acquire the expertise they need to take part in public security and help reduce insecurity, mainly through social work with groups that are at risk. Many of the participants traveled 1000 kilometers to take part, under their own steam.

The evaluations presented by all the participants and the comments expressed show that the seminars more than satisfied their expectations in terms of the expertise they acquired. They also revealed a keen interest in continuing with this strategy through a variety of actions related to the social prevention of crime.

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
USAID COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT LAG-A-00-02-00001-00
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH INCLUSION, CONFLICT PREVENTION
AND DEMOCRATIZATION IN LATIN AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROJECT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
September 2004 - May 2005

PROJECT: STRENGTHENING THE OMBUDSMAN IN LATIN AMERICA

FINAL GOAL: To make ombudsman's offices more accessible, independent and better equipped to solve and channel citizens' problems and implement actions that have a positive impact on the development of good governance

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: Increase in the number of ombudsman's offices in Latin America as a mechanism for protecting human rights and denouncing violations

Annual Goal 4 (2004): To sensitize the authorities of countries that have yet to appoint an ombudsman to the importance of doing so			
Activities	Impact Indicators 2004 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
Support for the process of securing the appointment of an ombudsman in Dominican Republic Objective: To support the process of securing the appointment of an ombudsman in Dominican Republic	Progress with the process of securing the appointment of an ombudsman in the Dominican Republic	The project paved the way for Dominican CSOs to design a joint strategy for coordinated efforts to secure the appointment of the first Ombudsman in Dominican Republic. Project representatives also met with the Speaker of the House of Representatives to impress upon him the importance of Dominican Republic having an Ombudsman.	Program of the activity List of participants

Annual Goal 2 (2004): To coordinate efforts to tackle common concerns of ombudsman's offices in the region; and help design a regional horizontal cooperation strategy for monitoring and providing follow-up to public policies on citizen security

Activities	Impact Indicators 2004 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Support for the organization of the Ninth FIO Congress</p> <p>Objective: To help organize the Ninth Congress of the International Federation of Ombudsmen (FIO)</p>	<p>Technical-academic level of the FIO's work program enhanced</p> <p>Ombudsman's offices strengthened through the joint activities decided on at the FIO Congress</p>	<p>During the FIO's Ninth Congress, the ombudsman of Ibero-America discussed matters of vital importance for their activities in their respective countries and under the aegis of the Federation, which adopts positions regarding specific social issues. The topics addressed included the ombudsman's role in the different international human rights protection bodies, such as the universal system and the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and Court. The participants also discussed the status of women's rights in Ibero-America, reaffirming women's right to equality and nondiscrimination and pledging support for actions aimed at strengthening the promotion and protection of their human rights, in accordance with the emphasis that their institutions place on cross-cutting issues, and through bodies specializing in the subject.</p>	<p>Program of the Congress</p> <p>List of participants</p> <p>Reports</p> <p>Declaration of Quito</p> <p>Proceedings of the FIO General Assembly</p>

		<p>At this congress, the ombudsman of Ibero-America were emphatic in urging Nicaragua's Legislative Assembly to appoint a human rights ombudsman as soon as possible, as the last incumbent completed his term of office in July 2004. A copy of the resolution they adopted was sent to the Nicaraguan parliament and a new human rights ombudsman was appointed on 13 December. The ombudsman also urged the authorities of Chile, Uruguay, Brazil and Dominican Republic to take part in the activities of the Ibero-American Federation, as the institution of the ombudsman is a legitimate aspiration of all people in the region and a key element of democracy and the rule of law. Furthermore, the ombudsman discussed the situation in Colombia and expressed their solidarity with the Colombian people and their institutions and their legitimate and keenly-felt aspiration to build peace, reduce the violence taking place and put an end to the internal armed conflicts; and recommended that special emphasis be placed on peaceful conflict resolution mechanisms, dialogue, democratic principles and respect for human dignity, in strict adherence to the rule of law, convinced that this is the only way to achieve lasting peace, development and the enjoyment and exercise of human rights. Finally, in the case of Honduras the members recommended that any initiative to create human rights commissions, offices and units should not undermine the constitutional and legal mandate of the National Human Rights Commissioner of Honduras.</p>	
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Annual Goal (2005): To support the consolidation of recently created ombudsman's offices and any others that may need it			
Activities	Impact Indicators 2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
Consolidation of the ombudsman's office in Bolivia Objective: To help consolidate the ombudsman's office in Bolivia	<p>Progress made in consolidating the ombudsman's office of Bolivia as a body with constitutional status responsible for promoting human rights</p> <p>The ombudsman's office of Bolivia is better equipped to respond to the needs of its clients</p>	<p>In the evaluation process carried out at the end of the training, the participants said they had found the content highly relevant and useful for their day-to-day work and that the learning experience had been a very good one. They also said that the knowledge acquired at the seminar would be used in helping the people who make use of the services of the ombudsman's office day in and day out, especially women, indigenous peoples and other groups at risk. These comments on the training effort show that the staff of the Ombudsman's Office did indeed benefit from the experience. They acquired new knowledge about the subjects addressed that they will put to good use immediately in their daily activities with the people who seek assistance from ombudsman's offices throughout the country.</p>	<p>Invitation to the inaugural lecture</p> <p>Program of the activity</p> <p>List of participants</p> <p>List of speakers</p> <p>Systematization of the results of the evaluation of the participants</p>
Support for the ombudsman's office in Peru Objective: To strengthen the technical and political capabilities of the ombudsman's office in Peru in regard to human rights promotion, education and protection, with emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights	<p>International human rights law incorporated into more rulings and judgments</p> <p>Staff of Peru's Ombudsman's Office is more knowledgeable and thus able to handle cases better</p>	<p>After the seminar-workshop, the participants evaluated the process and highlighted the relevance of the issues addressed in the presentations. They rated the knowledge they had acquired and the <i>usefulness</i> of what they had learned very highly. They intended to use their new knowledge mainly in dealing with the cases of different populations (disabled people, boys and girls, women, indigenous peoples, civil servants, legal operators, etc.).</p>	<p>Invitation to the inaugural lecture</p> <p>Program of the activity</p> <p>List of participants</p> <p>List of speakers</p> <p>Systematization of the results of the evaluation of the course</p> <p>References to the online ESCR course in the IIHR's the Inter-American Virtual Classroom</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
Support for the ombudsman's office in Paraguay Objective: To help the ombudsman's office in Paraguay design and implement a training plan focusing on the defense of human rights, the channeling of complaints from the public and the protection of community interests	Staff of the ombudsman's office better equipped to develop training plans on human rights within the institution	After the training activity, the participants were asked to evaluate the process. They rated the content as highly relevant to their work, and the event as a whole as of great practical use and a great learning experience. The participants intended to use their new knowledge by serving as multiplier agents in their respective offices and in their daily activities with the people who seek assistance from the ombudsman's office.	Invitation to the participants Invitation to the inaugural lecture Program of the seminar List of participants List of speakers Report on the assessment of the duties and responsibilities of the ombudsman's office in Paraguay and the training needed to strengthen the institution

How was progress made in achieving the performance indicator of the project Strengthening the Ombudsman in Latin America?

By implementing the activities for the period under review, the IIHR helped strengthened ombudsman institutions in Latin America, providing training, technical assistance and political support to the different offices that required it and via the organization that represents their interests: the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsman.

In the case of the Dominican Republic, where an ombudsman has still not been appointed, the project drew attention to the importance of this institution and helped mobilize civil society, so it could bring pressure to bear in a coordinated way. Via its Ninth Congress, the FIO was strengthened as a body for the discussion and analysis of important social issues that national human rights institutions in Ibero-America are required to deal with day in and day out. The continual strengthening of this body is a must, as it plays a key role in bolstering democracy in the region.

The different training activities provided the ombudsman's offices with useful tools for carrying out their daily tasks, thereby enabling them to impact critical issues in their respective countries more effectively. The officials trained also serve as multipliers of the knowledge acquired in their respective units, thus propagating the knowledge among people who can put it to good use.

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

USAID COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT LAG-A-00-02-00001-00

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH INCLUSION, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND DEMOCRATIZATION IN LATIN AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PROJECT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

September 2004 - August 2005

PROJECT: RAPID RESPONSE SYSTEM

FINAL GOAL: To respond, from a human rights perspective and adopting a technical/academic approach, to emerging short-term situations in the region that pose a threat to democratic governability and the full exercise of human rights, implementing actions that both USAID and the IIHR agree are necessary.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: State institutions and civil society networks are better equipped to detect and respond to institutional weaknesses that pose a threat to human rights and democratic governability.

Annual Goal 1 (2005): To provide a technical and academic response, from a human rights perspective, to unforeseen, critical situations that pose a threat to the rule of law and democratic governability in a country and situation where both USAID and the IIHR are in favor of such action			
Activities	Impact Indicators 2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Case-specific specialized assistance</p> <p>Objective: To provide technical assistance, from the human rights perspective, to state institutions and civil organizations that play a key role in democratic or governability crises in a given country</p>	<p>Reduction in the threat to the full exercise of human rights following the implementation of a rapid response action plan in a given country</p>	<p>Mission to analyze the pre-electoral conditions in Colombia In response to a request from USAID-Washington and USAID-Colombia, between 15 and 20 August 2005 the IIHR carried out a mission to Colombia to analyze the pre-electoral conditions. The objectives of the mission were as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To identify the main problems and challenges facing the electoral organizations (basically, the National Electoral Council, the National Registry and the electoral justice mechanisms) vis-à-vis the electoral processes scheduled for 2006 2. To pinpoint the main strengths and weaknesses of Colombia's electoral system, and of the political system as a whole, taking into account the impact of external forces (guerrilla forces, drug traffickers, paramilitary groups and others) on the electoral process 3. To ascertain what CSOs exist and whether they can coordinate 	<p>Program of work completed by the mission</p> <p>Aide-mémoire of the interviews carried out with representatives of government agencies, different sectors of civil society and international organizations</p> <p>Final Report: Mission to analyze the pre-electoral conditions in Colombia (15-20/08/05)</p>

		<p>national electoral evaluation and monitoring efforts</p> <p>4. To identify the kinds of international cooperation required and the main areas in which assistance is needed for this electoral process</p> <p>The mission comprised a team of first-rate international experts with experience in the areas of electoral planning, management and logistics, electoral training and citizen education, electoral informatics and political parties. The group included representatives of the IIHR/CAPEL, an official from USAID/Washington and a consultant and academic respected highly by both the IIHR/CAPEL and USAID/Colombia. This high degree of specialization made it possible to carry out the task in the limited time available. The work program was designed to facilitate the greatest possible contact with the various actors. Based on the interviews, the mission concluded that a favorable environment exists for additional international cooperation on electoral matters in Colombia. Many of the people interviewed pinpointed the same areas for possible assistance (training, efforts to inform and shape public opinion, institution building, technical assistance and electoral observation).</p>	
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How was progress made in achieving the performance indicator of the RAPID RESPONSE SYSTEM project?

Mindful of the time constraints imposed by the current electoral process, the members of the **Mission to analyze the pre-electoral conditions in Colombia** drew up a set of short and medium- to long-term recommendations in order of priority. They did so in order to make it easier for USAID decision makers to prioritize the lines of work they wish to support.

The team achieved its purpose of garnering and processing a great deal of the information available in a short period of time and analyzing the special circumstances that USAID and the U.S. Government must take into account in devising a strategy for electoral cooperation in Colombia.

**INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
USAID COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT LAG-A-00-02-00001-00**

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH INCLUSION, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND DEMOCRATIZATION IN LATIN AMERICA

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROJECT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
September 2004 - August 2005**

PROJECT: STRENGTHENING ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS

FINAL GOAL: To make the electoral bodies more independent and enhance their technical capabilities, so they can conduct efficient and transparent electoral processes

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: The members of the Electoral Network have enhanced technical capabilities and more knowledge

Annual Goal 1 (2004-2005): To consolidate the activities of the Inter-American Electoral Network aimed at strengthening the electoral bodies involved			
Activities	Impact Indicators 2004-2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
Inter-American Electoral Network Objective: To continue administering the network of networks of the electoral bodies that belong to the different associations	Network of electoral bodies in the region expanded and strengthened More documentation and comparative experiences, as input for the work of the associations and research projects. Electoral bodies and members of the electoral network in general have more up-to-date knowledge Easier access to up-to-date political and electoral information	Throughout the reporting period (September 2004-August 2005), the Inter-American Electoral Network facilitated information sharing and communication among its members. The number of members increased considerably. Some 41 people signed up as a result of the contacts made at the Eighteenth Conference of the Tikal Protocol (24-26/09/04); and 64 as a result of the contacts made between October and December 2004 during the 5 horizontal cooperation missions (Ecuador, Uruguay, Chile, Nicaragua and Bolivia), as well as at the Special Meeting of the Quito Protocol and other activities - Workshop on the Agenda for Strengthening Political Parties in the Central American Region and the Dominican Republic, the national forums to present the results to the political parties, held in Bolivia, Chile and the Dominican Republic in December 2004 under the project Equal Representation and Political Party Reform, the Workshop on Electoral Spending in Chile and the workshops on political parties in Paraguay and Mexico. In June 2005, the updating of the	Inter-American Electoral Network Up-to-date distribution list that includes 569 people: red-electoral@iidh.ed.cr UNIORE newsletters (issues 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53) in Spanish and English IIHR/CAPEL Web page: www.iidh.ed.cr/capel

		<p>Electoral Network database was completed. A sub-section on Electoral Jurisprudence was created on the IIHR/CAPEL Web page, which now contains case law from Argentina, Costa Rica, Paraguay and Peru, and more is expected from other countries in the region. The Web page address was simplified as it was very long, not easy to remember and not associated directly with the IIHR/CAPEL program. The staff continued to post online the main papers and presentations from the conferences held (Quito and Tikal Protocols); the documents containing the conclusions of the workshops held with political parties in Central America, the Southern Cone and Mexico; and the documents generated by the specialized consultation (San Jose, Costa Rica, 28-29/07/05) on the "Democratization of Political Parties in Bolivia, Chile and the Dominican Republic," research that the IIHR/CAPEL carried out under the project Equal Representation and Political Party Reform. The project managers decided not to proceed with the third electronic forum on <i>"Contributions made by Electoral Jurisprudence on the Democratization of Political Parties."</i> A forum on democracy and inclusion began operating on 9 February 2005, for the participants in the workshops for political parties from the Andean Region and Central America. The response was poor and the subject matter included the topic of the third forum. Moreover, only one person took part in the electronic forum on the control of election spending launched at the end of June. Consequently, we shall have to consider whether it is worthwhile continuing to hold forums of this kind.</p>	
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Activities	Impact Indicators 2004-2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Quito Protocol</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>To encourage dialogue among the South American electoral bodies</p> <p>To keep South American</p>	<p>The electoral bodies have more specialized technical knowledge about ways of controlling campaign financing</p> <p>Progress in updating the Association's work program</p>	<p>The Eleventh Conference of the Quito Protocol was rescheduled for the first half of 2005. However, several electoral judges in South America informed the Executive Secretariat that the Association's members needed to meet before 2005 and proposed that a Special Meeting of the Quito Protocol be held in 2004. This took place 18 October, during the provincial elections in Ecuador. The Eleventh Conference of the Quito Protocol was held 18-20 April 2005 in Asuncion, Paraguay, co-sponsored by the Higher</p>	<p>Report of the special meeting of the Quito Protocol</p> <p>List of participants in the Special Meeting of the Quito Protocol</p>

electoral officials abreast of developments with respect to the Inter-American Electoral Network	<p>More and stronger alliances of electoral bodies for joint activities on technical electoral matters</p> <p>Work program of the Association updated with the decisions taken at the conference</p>	<p>Tribunal of Electoral Justice (TSJE). Some 24 delegates from the Quito Protocol attended, plus four people from the Executive Secretariat (IIHR/CAPEL) and four experts. The participants shared their ideas and experiences with regard to the theme of the activity, <i>"The oversight function of electoral bodies."</i> They learned more about the subject thanks to a series of academic presentations on topics such as control, the organization of accounting groups and relations with political parties; and they also studied good practices. The IIHR/CAPEL posted most of the papers presented and the agreements taken at the Conference on its Web page. To provide input for the discussions at the Conference, the electoral organizations were asked to prepare a national report on the current status of, and future challenges facing, democratic systems in South America, and a diagnostic study of the respective organization's oversight function. The following countries presented a report: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela presented diagnostic studies.</p>	<p>List of delegates and participants in the Eleventh Conference of the Quito Protocol</p> <p>Agreements of the Conference, available on CAPEL's Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/cape/)</p>
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Activities	Impact Indicators 2004-2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Newsletters of the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE)</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>To continue keeping the members of the Inter-American Electoral Network abreast of the most important political and electoral developments in the Americas</p> <p>To disseminate information about activities related to the associations of electoral bodies</p>	<p>Electoral information disseminated more widely in the hemisphere</p> <p>More documents and experiences shared on electoral topics and processes in the region</p> <p>Users of the Network more conversant with electoral topics and processes in the region</p>	<p>Ten newsletters were produced between September 2004 and August 2005 and distributed among the members of UNIORE, CSOs involved in electoral issues (particularly those of the Lima Agreement), certain organizations belonging to the Inter-American Network for Democracy (RID), academics, members of political parties, donors and local USAID offices. The publications were very well received, as confirmed by emails sent in by the users of the Network in which they thanked the IIHR/CAPEL for sending them the information and endorsed the newsletter's content.</p>	<p>Inter-American Electoral Network</p> <p>Specialized section of the IIHR's Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)</p> <p>UNIORE newsletters (issues 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53) in Spanish and English</p> <p>Distribution list that includes 645 people (currently being updated)</p> <p>Emails sent to the IIHR/CAPEL</p>

Activities	Impact Indicators 2004 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Tikal Protocol</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>To encourage dialogue among the electoral bodies of Central America and the Caribbean</p> <p>To keep electoral officials in Central America and the Caribbean abreast of developments with respect to the Inter-American Electoral Network</p>	<p>Electoral organizations have more specialized technical knowledge about the topics discussed at the conference</p> <p>Progress in updating the Work Program of the Association of Electoral Bodies of the Tikal Protocol</p> <p>More and stronger partnerships of electoral organizations leading to joint actions on technical electoral matters</p> <p>The topics on the Work Program of the electoral bodies updated with the agreements adopted at the conference</p> <p>More active members of the Association</p>	<p>The Eighteenth Conference of the Association of Electoral Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (Tikal Protocol) took place 24-26 September 2004 in Dominican Republic. It was co-sponsored by the local Central Electoral Board. Some 29 delegates from the electoral organizations of Central America and the Caribbean took part, plus three people from the Executive Secretariat (IIHR/CAPEL), and six experts (speakers). The internal democratization of political parties is a subject to which electoral bodies in the region had not devoted much attention before. The IIHR/CAPEL -as was acknowledged- made an important contribution to the subject by conducting research in the Central American region recently. The conference provided an opportunity to share information about the progress of the internal democratization of parties. This, combined with the academic presentations, permitted the participants to learn about conceptual definitions and indicators of internal democracy, political reforms in this field in Latin America, how to make parties more democratic internally, and the challenges faced by political parties in Latin America with respect to internal democracy. The resolutions adopted at the conference updated the work program and highlighted the need for electoral bodies to support the implementation of assessments and specialized studies that will make it possible to share information about the progress of efforts designed to increase the internal democratization of political parties.</p>	<p>Program of the event and list of delegates</p> <p>Inter-American Electoral Network</p> <p>Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/cape/)</p> <p>UNIORE newsletters</p> <p>Agreements of the Eighteenth Conference of the Tikal Protocol</p> <p>Report of the Executive Secretariat</p>

Annual Goal 2 (2004-2005): To strengthen selected electoral organizations and those engaged in electoral and political reform processes in 2004

Activities	Impact Indicators 2004 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
Horizontal Cooperation Missions Objective: To share and transfer know-how and experiences among electoral bodies	Electoral legislation or practices modified as a result of the implementation of recommendations or lessons learned from the missions The members of the Inter-American Electoral Network have more comparative knowledge of electoral legislation and practices	Between September 2004 and August 2005, a total of 5 horizontal cooperation missions were carried out involving members of the associations of electoral organizations and the Inter-American Electoral Network: general elections (31/10/04) in Uruguay; municipal elections (7/11/04) in Nicaragua; municipal elections (5/12/04) in Bolivia; local elections (17/10/04) in Ecuador; and elections for mayors and aldermen (31/10/04) in Chile. Given the composition of the horizontal cooperation mission, comparative technical recommendations were made with regard to the secrecy of the vote and aspects of electoral logistics. No electoral reforms were enacted but the missions continue to provide local officials with plenty of ideas for possible reforms and specific improvements to electoral practices.	2004 Election Calendar List of observers Summary of Conclusions of the Session to Evaluate the Elections in Ecuador, Uruguay, and Bolivia Summary of Conclusions of the Session to Evaluate Elections in Chile and Nicaragua UNIORE newsletters (issues 44 and 45) International Electoral News Service (SINE)

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Workshop of Political Parties in the Southern Cone</p> <p>Objective: To position and validate a comprehensive proposal on ways to strengthen political parties in the Southern Cone</p>	<p>Political parties more familiar with the issues involved in their own internal democratization</p> <p>Stronger links between political parties and electoral bodies</p>	<p>A second workshop on political parties took place 22-23 November 2004 in San Jose, Costa Rica. The first workshop, entitled Agenda for Strengthening Political Parties in the Andean Region, was held (03/04) in Santiago, Chile. The second activity was for Central America and Dominican Republic. The findings of the Institute's research on the subject and the conclusions of the Santiago workshop were used as the basis for the discussions and for setting work priorities in this area. The active, participatory methodology used in this workshop made it possible to collect valuable information about institutionalization, democratization and transparency within the political parties concerned. The workshop provided an excellent opportunity to report on the progress made in this field in the Andean region and the status of related research on both Central America and Panama, and the specific cases of Bolivia, Chile and Dominican Republic. The Workshop on Political Parties in the Southern Cone took place 21-22 April 2005 in Asuncion, Paraguay. The counterpart organization was the Higher Tribunal of Electoral Justice of Paraguay (TSJE) and the roughly 46 participants came from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay (no one was invited from Chile as the country had hosted the workshop for the Andean region). They were drawn from political parties, CSOs involved in political processes, academia and institutions directly involved in research and promotion on the organization and operation of parties. Officials from cooperation agencies such as USAID/Paraguay, international agencies and institutions interested in strengthening political parties in Latin America also participated. Many of the participants were senior party leaders who hold important positions on political committees or as elected officials. Representatives of important CSOs took part (e.g., Poder Ciudadano of Argentina and Transparencia/Paraguay), as well as several members of electoral bodies in the region, including the presidents of the National Electoral Chamber of Argentina and the Electoral Court of Uruguay. The existence of a base document like <i>Political parties in Central America: changes and ways in which they could be strengthened</i> proved to be very</p>	<p>List of Participants and Program of the Workshop <i>Agenda for strengthening political parties in Central America and the Dominican Republic</i></p> <p>Final Report on the Workshop <i>Agenda for strengthening political parties in Central America and the Dominican Republic</i></p> <p>List of participants and Program of the Workshop <i>Agenda for strengthening political parties in the Southern Cone</i></p> <p>Working documents: <i>Political parties in Central America: changes and ways in which they could be strengthened</i>; <i>Political parties in the Andean Region: changes and ways in which they could be strengthened</i>. On file and available on the IIHR/CAPEL Web page</p>

		<p>useful for guiding and focusing the discussions in the workshops, and for sparking discussion and debate among the participants. The group discussions and the plenary sessions with the different participants, from political parties and electoral bodies, yielded highly useful information. Valuable input specific to the region was collected on the core topics of institutionalization, democratization and transparency, how they are interrelated (how they both complement each other and overlap, and create certain frictions) and the lessons learned and problems that will require action in the future.</p>	<p>(www.iidh.ed.cr/cafel)</p> <p>Document containing key observations by Southern Cone countries on the document <i>Political parties in the Andean region: changes and ways in which they could be strengthened</i>. On file and available on the IIHR/CAPEL Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/cafel)</p> <p>Final Report on the Workshop <i>Agenda for strengthening political parties in the Southern Cone</i></p> <p>CD containing Electoral Dictionary</p> <p>CD containing compilation of analysis and research on internal democratization of political parties in Central America, Panama, the Dominican Republic and the Andean Region</p>
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Activities	Impact Indicators 2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Political Party Workshop in Mexico</p> <p>Objective: To position and validate a comprehensive proposal on ways to strengthen political parties in Mexico. The proposal will be produced by the political stakeholders and other entities working in the area of political parties. It will establish the priorities and work methods, based on the actual situation and the possibilities of the political groupings themselves in that country</p>	<p>Political parties more familiar with the issues involved in their own internal democratization</p> <p>Stronger links between political parties and electoral bodies</p>	<p>The Workshop on Political Parties in Mexico, originally programmed for February 2005, took place in April this year. The counterparts (the Federal Electoral Tribunal, the Federal Electoral Institute and the Colegio de México) asked that the date be changed to dovetail with activities that they and the political parties already had scheduled. The workshop was reprogrammed following a series of meetings in Mexico, during an IIHR/CAPEL preparatory mission carried out 21-24 February 2005. The active, participatory methodology used in this workshop made it possible to garner valuable inputs - specific to Mexico - about the core topics of institutionalization, democratization and transparency, how they are interrelated (how they both complement each other and overlap, and create certain frictions) and the lessons learned and problems that will require action in the future.</p>	<p>List of Participants and Program of the Workshop <i>Agenda for strengthening political parties in Mexico</i></p> <p>Working document <i>Political parties in Central America: changes and ways in which they could be strengthened</i>. On file and available on the IIHR/CAPEL Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)</p> <p>Document containing key observations from Mexico on the document <i>Political parties in Central America: changes and ways in which they could be strengthened</i>. On file and available on the IIHR/CAPEL Web page (www.iidh.ed.cr/capel)</p> <p>Final Report of the workshop <i>Agenda for strengthening political parties in Mexico</i></p>

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Project Honduras</p> <p>Objective: To provide support to the TSE-Honduras, the electoral committees of the political parties, journalists who cover these issues and the citizenry in general, with the implementation of electoral reforms, voter education and election monitoring</p>	<p>The NGO FOPRIDEH trained to implement the National Voter Education Plan</p> <p>TSE-Honduras staff updated regarding the election calendar, as a guide to the electoral process</p>	<p>The Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Honduras asked for help in preparing the internal elections of the different political parties that were held simultaneously (02/05) and the presidential elections (11/05). The IIHR/CAPEL therefore programmed technical advisory missions led by Uruguayan expert Horacio Cánepa and Jaime Márquez, Deputy Director of Electoral Training and Education of the National Office of Electoral Processes (ONPE) of Peru. These missions took place in October 2004 and November-December 2004, involving both work with the TSE and FOPRIDEH and close contacts with USAID-Honduras. The main objective was to provide advisory services to both the electoral body and an NGO, FOPRIDEH. However, in order to provide all possible assistance, and given the complexity of the election calendar in Honduras, the IIHR/CAPEL team also supported the President and other members of the TSE in various areas related to the organization and administration of the processes slated for 2005. Undertaking technical missions was an important way of developing a system of coordination that, while based on the area of electoral training, not only involved the IIHR/CAPEL's bilateral relationship with the TSE or coordination with specialized organizations like FOPRIDEH and ACI-Participa, but also helped systematize various international initiatives in support of the TSE operating in tandem in the country, to ensure they were consistent and coordinated. This was particularly true of the contact and coordination with the OAS (considerable progress was made with its representatives in determining to which aspects each organization does and will contribute, to avoid the duplication and diffusion of efforts). The IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists worked with the unit in charge of the citizen training and education, to prepare a work schedule covering the main activities (especially the processes in February and November 2005) and the production of the training booklet and other key materials for the training. Another extremely important factor was the increasingly close working relationship between consultant Horacio Cánepa and the President of the TSE, Jacobo Hernández. They constantly consulted each other about the overall electoral administration and</p>	<p>Report by consultant Horacio Cánepa to the TSE-Honduras (12-15 October 2004), forwarded to the TSE-Honduras and USAID-Honduras</p> <p>Report by consultants Horacio Cánepa and Jaime Márquez to the TSE-Honduras (28 November-8 December 2004), forwarded to the TSE-Honduras and USAID-Honduras</p> <p>Report on the IIHR/CAPEL's technical assistance mission (17-22 January 2005), for the primary elections in Honduras on 20 February 2005</p> <p>Report on the IIHR/CAPEL's technical assistance mission (6-23 February 2005), for the primary elections in Honduras on 20 February 2005</p> <p>Report on the mission to observe the Primary Elections on 20</p>

		logistics, and the implementation of the complex electoral processes in February and November 2005. The IIHR/CAPEL missions carried out during the reporting period were coordinated closely with Honduran citizen organizations preparing to observe the process.	February 2005 Mission report (August 2005)
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Activities	Impact Indicators 2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
Ecuador Project Objective: To train, working closely with the Training Committee of Ecuador's electoral organization and all the provincial electoral authorities, a group of representatives of the political parties and movements authorized to take part in the elections	Improvement in the quality of the Ecuadorian electoral organization's National Electoral Training Program Representatives of political parties better equipped to monitor the quality of the electoral process	Implementation of a two-component electoral training project began in Ecuador in May 2004 and its operational activities concluded with the provincial and local elections held 17 October 2004. At the express request of the judges of the TSE, and with the approval of USAID-Ecuador, a second training component was implemented. Once again, the project worked closely with the Ecuadorian electoral body's Training Commission and all the provincial electoral authorities. Targeted at a group of representatives of the political parties and movements authorized to take part in the elections, the objective was to ensure that the political stakeholders were better informed about the mechanics of election day and for them to hold similar training events for their members, to enable them to monitor the quality of the process better. In November and December 2004, the IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists held one-day evaluation activities with the main institutional stakeholders and the people helping to implement the training programs. An IIHR/CAPEL mission was in Quito 23-25 August 2005 for meetings with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and USAID/Ecuador, to reactivate the activities of the electoral technical assistance project that the IIHR/CAPEL has been	Aides-mémoire for the judges of the TSE and the National Director of Training on the final stage of the execution of the electoral training Data collection forms Project evaluation form (specifically for members of the TSE) Report of mission to observe the local elections on 17 October 2004

		implementing since 2004.	
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How was progress made in achieving the performance indicator of the project STRENGTHENING ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS?

The first thing that should be noted regarding the year September 2004 - August 2005 is the growing role of the Inter-American Electoral Network as a channel for horizontal cooperation on electoral issues. There are ongoing institutional exchanges, under agreements such as the one between Ecuador and Brazil, while others are under negotiation (Costa Rica-Brazil and Peru-Bolivia, for training). The electoral organizations that have the most expertise in this area, such as those of Peru, Mexico and Panama, are assisting Colombia and Ecuador. Panama and Costa Rica are also working with Guatemala on voter registration and identity documents. In addition to these specific agreements, the IIHR/CAPEL has been providing the Electoral Network with a lot of new content, including materials on training, specialized education in electoral topics and analyses of the democratization of political parties. Consequently, it is no surprise that during the past year the IIHR/CAPEL has carried out two technical assistance projects with electoral organizations (in Ecuador and Honduras), exceeding the goals set for 2004 and 2005 in the process.

The project had its hands full during the reporting period, with electoral processes taking place in Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Uruguay. Since the elections in Chile and Uruguay took place at the same time, the IIHR/CAPEL team had to divide its efforts to ensure a satisfactory presence in both cases. The electoral processes continue to yield interesting lessons for horizontal cooperation, as can be seen in the respective reports, ranging from the development of voter lists to the use of electronic voting systems. The large number of activities over the last year permitted the IIHR/CAPEL to review the main electoral issues and problems facing the Americas at this time. In particular, supporting Uruguay's electoral authorities proved to be a very useful exercise; the IIHR/CAPEL was able to observe the preferential voting system used in that country and reassess the possible undesired effects these systems can have on the dynamics of political parties, and the technical difficulties involved in counting and transmitting results. This was also the case in Ecuador, albeit to a lesser degree. It is important to bear these lessons in mind as preferential voting systems are envisaged under the new electoral legislation enacted in Honduras.

One of the horizontal cooperation missions was also used to give continuity to the Electoral Network's onsite activities, with a Special Meeting of the Quito Protocol being held in Ecuador at almost no cost to the project. Taking advantage of the presence of representatives of nearly all the South American electoral bodies, the meeting provided an important opportunity to discuss and update the work of the Executive Secretariat.

The past year was a period of intense and challenging activity. The IIHR/CAPEL had to diversify its activities, incorporating two technical assistance projects, one in Ecuador and another in Honduras. Substantial progress was made with the strategy for strengthening political parties, without neglecting the Electoral Network and the needs of the electoral organizations. The IIHR/CAPEL had to combine continuity with innovation, demonstrating that such a balance is possible but requires careful planning and a detailed study of the resources needed for each step.

The projects in Ecuador and Honduras made significant progress and became more complex (they now consist of two components each), although this growing complexity has not had a negative impact on the smooth implementation of activities. In both countries, the IIHR/CAPEL's efforts were well timed and appreciated by the electoral organizations. However, there is also concern at the political situation in both countries, which will have to be taken into account for future activities.

In the case of Ecuador, the team wishes to highlight the important contribution, sincerity and readiness to cooperate of the sectors consulted for the evaluation of the project (polling officers and representatives of political parties were consulted about both components), and the better quality (and broader coverage) of the 2004 Training Program thanks to the incorporation of university professors. The political parties are also keen to see their representatives trained, but this matter will have to be addressed gradually. The National Training Directorate made an important contribution; the fact that this unit is sustainable within the structure of the TSE is also important. The presentation of the final report was included, marking the end of a series of intensive activities. Now the project is focusing on an analysis of the institution's evolution in the run up to the 2006 elections. The political situation in Ecuador is extremely complex and could deteriorate in the months ahead. Therefore, we shall have to monitor closely the progress of the new electoral authorities and the preparations for next year's elections. In this connection, the staff has been working closely with USAID officials for some time.

In the case of Honduras, the technical assistance was urgently needed and very timely. The TSE unit in charge of the training was very open to our advice and assistance. The fact that our consultants got on very well with the President of the TSE and the other judges was a big plus; indeed, they are now being consulted about many topics not covered by the training (administration and logistics). Finally, given the presence of other organizations - particularly the OAS - that provide advisory services in the same area (citizen training and education), the IIHR/CAPEL had to define its tasks and responsibilities well in order to avoid inconsistencies or duplication. The first, sensitive stage of the electoral process concluded with the primary elections. The international advisory assistance provided by the IIHR/CAPEL and other organizations was important and ensured that the process went off smoothly. However, thanks to the support of the local USAID office, and on its recommendation, the IIHR/CAPEL will be conducting an evaluation to determine more precisely the lessons learned from this stage of the electoral process and in the run up to the general elections slated for November 2005.

The Eleventh Conference of the Quito Protocol provided an opportunity to discuss the oversight responsibilities of the electoral bodies, highlighting strengths and weaknesses that also have to do with the life of political parties and how they are financed. The conference also allowed the IIHR/CAPEL to make further contacts for the heavy program of observation work it will be carrying out beginning around the end of 2005 and

continuing throughout the whole of next year. The event was also useful for involving the electoral bodies further in the ongoing efforts to strengthen political parties, generating interaction to increase the impact of the studies and the conclusions that have been obtained.

The research carried out and contacts made also enabled the IIHR/CAPEL to position itself on the subject of the strengthening of political parties. It engaged in successful negotiations with USAID (Washington and USAID local missions like Ecuador and El Salvador) and the Electoral Network is now more involved in this issue. One of the most important developments during the period was undoubtedly the progress made with the IIHR/CAPEL strategy for strengthening political parties, incorporating new results from research carried out with funding from other sources and the implementation of a new subregional workshop to determine priorities for future action, in this case in Central America and Dominican Republic. This made it possible to revise the IIHR/CAPEL's work program and methodology that will be applied in Mexico and the Southern Cone in 2005. This is a fortunate link with the Equal Representation and Party Reform Project. The link between the strategy for strengthening electoral bodies and the one for political parties was perhaps seen most clearly at the Eighteenth Conference of the Tikal Protocol, whose theme was the democratization of political parties. Through these joint efforts, progress is being made toward the proposed objectives in both fields of action.

The IIHR/CAPEL also realized that, despite the progress made, the time had come to restructure the electronic link of its electoral network, not only to incorporate the initiative on political parties but also to adapt to the needs of new users and tap the new technologies available.

A period of intense work such as the one described, which included the continuity of specific projects and progress on more general matters, called for careful planning and execution, with only minor changes being made in the work plans for the period.

Especially important were the two consultations with political parties held in Asuncion and Mexico City. The IIHR/CAPEL now has a great deal of input garnered from all of continental Latin America and the Dominican Republic. The results are still being processed and compared, but the staff can already visualize many possibilities for future action to strengthen political parties. The latest consultations, following those held in Santiago, Chile (March 2004) and San Jose, Costa Rica (November 2004), bring to an end a very broad exercise and give renewed legitimacy to the strategic plan and plan of action that the IIHR/CAPEL will soon be completing. No other organization has conducted such a wide geographic consultation with the direct involvement of so many representatives of political parties.

Activities financed by other sources of international cooperation made it possible to extend the IIHR/CAPEL's action to Colombia during this period. Electoral officials were trained at a workshop held for the National Registry in April, and a day of discussions with political parties took place in Medellin on 28 June. In both cases, the inputs developed under the USAID agreement were used, thereby increasing the scope of the impact of the activities.

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
USAID COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT LAG-A-00-02-00001-00
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH INCLUSION, CONFLICT PREVENTION
AND DEMOCRATIZATION IN LATIN AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROJECT BY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
September 2004 - August 2005

PROJECT: EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND POLITICAL PARTY REFORM

FINAL GOAL: To enhance the capacity of formal representation systems, with special emphasis on the strengthening, democratization and transparency of political parties, in order to promote equal citizen participation and representation

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: More proposals for the internal democratization of political parties, based on comparative experiences

Annual Goal 2004: Validate the findings and proposals related to the democratization of political parties, translate them into models or functional practices and disseminate them Annual Goal 2005: Implement national pilot projects, with the respective academic support, in at least one country in the region, that could be replicated in other countries, based on the development of a Strategic Plan for the strengthening, democratization and transparency of political parties			
Activities	Impact Indicators 2004-2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
Develop and disseminate concrete proposals for advancing the internal democratization of political parties Objective: To draft and disseminate proposals for advancing the internal democratization of political parties in the countries selected (Chile, Bolivia and Dominican Republic)	More validated proposals on ways of democratizing political parties in the countries selected Broadening of the public debate regarding proposals for democratizing political parties in the countries selected (Chile, Bolivia and Dominican Republic) Appropriation of the debate by the political parties	Between September 2004 and August 2005, the three workshops were held to “give back” the information on the internal democratization of parties to the main political parties of the countries where the project conducted applied research in 2003 and 2004 (i.e., Bolivia, Chile and the Dominican Republic). A major effort was required to systematize the information and use the inputs. This also reconfirmed the importance of maintaining the contacts established and coordinated for the implementation of the study. Specific missions were carried out to the three countries involved in the sample, to present the main findings of the research on the democratization of political parties. In all three instances, project staff coordinated their activities with the respective electoral body. In the case of Chile and the Dominican Republic, they also worked with the citizen organizations that had assisted with the study, while in Bolivia the counterpart was the same academic institution. The workshops were	Records of participants in workshops in Bolivia, Chile and Dominican Republic PowerPoint presentations from the three workshops Learning aids: CD, diskette, printed materials and book Reference in UNIORE newsletter #45

		<p>held on 2 December 2004 (Bolivia), 6 December 2004 (Chile) and 15 December 2004 (Dominican Republic). In addition to the Director and one or more members of the IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists, these activities brought together some thirty people in the three countries: representatives of political parties, academics, senior electoral officials and representatives of civil society organizations and international cooperation agencies stationed in the countries (except in the case of Chile). These meetings were also used to validate some of the conclusions of the study, divided in the analytical areas of: a) matrixes of existing regulations, b) matrixes of bibliographic and doctrinal references, and c) the systematization of the questionnaires completed by party leaders between the last quarter of 2003 and the first quarter of 2004. Other matters discussed included the desirability and the need to publish the results as soon as possible, the importance that international cooperation agencies attach to the issue and some of the theoretical bases of the study (questioned in some quarters). There is no doubt that implementing these three workshops marked a big step towards achieving the impact indicators. While the activities themselves were very important, they were only a stepping-stone to the preparation of the Final Report, which will establish more clearly the strategic and quantitative vision of the indicators. The project was able to attract and involve in each workshop both the main political actors and leading analysts and academics in the field. All were agreed as to the importance of the initiative and the academic discipline with which the IIHR/CAPEL has addressed the subject in their countries, paving the way for future work. The mix of participants not only ensured a variety of approaches but also highlighted certain tensions that cannot be obviated (e.g., levels of resistance of political parties to civil society organizations that affect political and electoral processes).</p> <p>The participants were very interested in the findings and reiterated their interest in closely monitoring the project's progress.</p> <p>The working meeting on <i>"Proposals for the internal democratization of political parties and their dissemination in Bolivia, Chile and the Dominican Republic"</i> took place 28-29 July 2005, in San Jose, Costa Rica. The dates were chosen to coincide with the presence of leading experts on the subject in Costa Rica at that time, working on other IIHR academic activities. A total of 25 people took part, from</p>	<p>List of participants and program of the Working Meeting</p> <p>UNIORE newsletter #51 (July 2005)</p> <p>Base document on <i>"Proposals for the internal democratization of political parties"</i> put forward by the IIHR/CAPEL</p> <p>Nine documents containing the reactions of the participants in the July 2005 meeting to the base document proposed by the IIHR/CAPEL</p> <p>IIHR/CAPEL Web page: www.iidh.ed.cr/capei</p>
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		<p>Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, El Salvador, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru and the Dominican Republic. Six IIHR/CAPEL officials were involved.</p> <p>The IIHR/CAPEL's specialists, supported by specialized consultants, prepared a document containing the conclusions of the findings, and the national meetings held to communicate and discuss them in 2003 and 2004, and proposals and models for promoting the internal democratization of political parties. These proposals were validated at the working meeting, to determine their usefulness. Based on the results of the meeting, the forthcoming publication of the document containing the results and the comparative analysis look set to be well received by the academics, representatives of political parties and senior electoral officials. All agreed that this type of research offers a large, but also specific, number of areas of work for strengthening political parties.</p> <p>The results will reach a wider audience as they will be disseminated by means of a printed publication, its equivalent on CD-Rom and access to the IIHR/CAPEL web page.</p>	
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Activities	Impact Indicators 2004-2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>EI Salvador Project</p> <p>Objective: To identify possible areas of collaboration to improve participation, transparency and accountability within the Salvadoran political party system</p>	<p>The Salvadoran political system is stronger in aspects related to democratization, transparency and the accountability of political actors</p>	<p>A new national challenge was added to the activities programmed for October-December 2004 under this project. This formed part of the amendment made to the cooperation agreement between the IIHR and USAID-Washington (pursuant to the changes requested to the 2004 Annual Plan that were approved by USAID-Washington). The work was related to the final stage of the “Project to identify possible collaboration to improve participation, transparency and accountability within the Salvadoran Political Party System,” undertaken by USAID-EI Salvador. For reasons related to do the period under review, the project provided follow-up to the preparation and presentation of the Final Report of the consultancy (in both Spanish and English). The studies conducted in Chile, Bolivia and the Dominican Republic were basically academic in nature and a sample of three of the hemisphere’s subregions. The aim was to identify trends in the internal democratization of parties and then put this knowledge to practical use, as a sort of “applied research.” The USAID-EI Salvador Project, on the other hand, is a national-level effort. Although this activity is very different in nature and scope, it confirms that the orientation of the IIHR/CAPEL’s work related to the democratization of political parties is correct. The approach developed is flexible enough to permit simultaneous action at several different geographical levels (regional, subregional and national, involving countries in various parts of the hemisphere) and a focus ranging from largely academic work to more practical efforts, such as institutional policy making (as in the case of USAID-EI Salvador).</p> <p>Given the limited time available to prepare the project, the IIHR/CAPEL consultants took into account a set of academic inputs containing processed information and then confirmed their validity on the ground during a visit to EI Salvador 12-25 September 2004. They talked directly with political, social and academic stakeholders to elicit their specific concerns and observations and identify possible ways in which the parties could be strengthened and made more democratic. They interviewed 36 people involved in the Salvadoran political</p>	<p>Report on the <i>Project to identify possible collaboration to improve participation, transparency and accountability within the Salvadoran political party system</i></p>

		<p>system from the business, social and academic sectors, the media, senior electoral officials, Supreme Court justices, analysts and politicians from different ideological backgrounds. A questionnaire containing four basic questions was used for the interviews, focusing on three core topics: the importance of political parties in democracy; the political party crisis; and the strengthening of political parties. The questionnaire was tweaked and expanded during the course of the interviews, in line with the possibilities, time, knowledge and willingness of each interviewee, to adjust it to their interests. Consultants Álvaro Artiga (El Salvador) and Andrés Araya (Costa Rica), both political scientists, were joined by Cathy Niarchos of USAID-Washington. Working closely with the Director's Office and the IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists, they systematized the inputs they obtained and processed, and interpreted concisely the assessment, specific proposals, conclusions and recommendations concerning potential future actions for implementation in this field. The perceptions of the interviewees and, therefore, the results, revealed a great diversity of approaches. However, the general feeling was that the time was ripe to address certain specific issues and there was a need to create an enabling environment, generate opinion and support proposals designed to strengthen the political system, in particular areas such as democratization, transparency and the accountability of political actors within both institutions and political parties.</p> <p>In 2004, USAID-El Salvador asked the Director's Office and the IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists to give a presentation on the project's work strategy to local USAID and U.S. Embassy officials. However, it was not possible to make this presentation until this year, on 23 February. This activity was not programmed in the work plan and schedule approved for 2005. It marked the culmination of an important effort undertaken by CAPEL in 2004 that positioned the project in regard to the design of a strategy for work with political parties at the national level and not only at the regional and subregional levels.</p>	
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Activities	Impact Indicators 2004-2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Chile Project (PARTICIPA)</p> <p>Objective: To familiarize the citizenry and the candidates for public office in the 2004 municipal elections with the new law, placing the issue of campaign spending on the public agenda and monitoring part of the campaign spending of the mayoral candidates in 24 boroughs of Greater Santiago</p>	<p>The citizenry is more knowledgeable about and better equipped to exert political control over campaign spending</p> <p>Recommendations designed to strengthen or amend political financing rules implemented</p>	<p>As occurred with the El Salvador project, a new national challenge was added to the activities programmed for this project between September 2004 and August 2005, also as part of the amendment to the cooperation agreement between the IIHR and USAID-Washington (pursuant to the changes requested to the 2004 Annual Plan that were approved by USAID-Washington). The corresponding Technical Report was produced for the activity coordinated with Chilean organization PARTICIPA, entitled <i>“Monitoring of Election Campaign Spending under the New Law on the Financing of Politics.”</i> As this activity was approved under the amendment to the cooperation agreement (in accordance with the changes requested to the 2004 Annual Plan), it is included in this report as an independent project.</p> <p>The studies conducted in Chile, Bolivia and the Dominican Republic were basically academic in nature and a sample of three of the hemisphere’s subregions. They identified trends in the internal democratization of parties and then put this knowledge to practical use, as a sort of “applied research.” The PARTICIPA-Chile Project, on the other hand, is a national effort. Although this activity is very different in nature and scope, it confirms that the orientation of the IIHR/CAPEL’s work related to the democratization of political parties is correct. The approach developed is flexible enough to permit simultaneous action at several different geographical levels (regional, subregional and national, involving countries in various parts of the hemisphere) and a focus ranging from largely academic work to more practical efforts, such as citizen oversight in the case of the PARTICIPA-Chile Project.</p> <p>This monitoring project is limited in terms of the geographic coverage and the type of electoral spending involved. Nonetheless, it demonstrates clearly that it is possible for the citizenry to quantify and control such spending, and that this is not only desirable but also useful for pinpointing problems or gaps in the law. The aforementioned Election Expenditure Act regulates</p>	<p>Final Report of the project <i>“Monitoring of election campaign spending under the new law on the financing of politics”</i></p>

		<p>the financing, limits and control of campaign financing, allowing individuals and companies to contribute all kinds of goods to candidates, political parties and political education institutes. During the exercise to monitor election spending it became clear that it was not possible to do an exhaustive job. There are many expenditures of which only the candidate or political party concerned are aware. They include media advisory services, marketing, door-to-door canvassing, gifts, leaflets, stationery and mailings. The political parties or candidates only declare such expenditures when it is in their interests to do so. They could easily go undetected - i.e., there is no way of proving that the money has been spent. Certain other expenditures are very difficult to quantify but could be monitored if an agency were given sufficient powers and financial resources to do so (e.g., the cost of opinion surveys and telephone canvassing). Based on the monitoring activities carried out, it appears to be very difficult and expensive to establish the exact amount that the candidates and parties spend on advertising in public thoroughfares. Changes would have to be monitored in every district on a daily basis.</p>	
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Activities	Impact Indicators 2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Preparation of the Strategic Plan (Meeting of Experts and Internal Planning)</p> <p>Objective: To develop a comprehensive strategic plan for the IIHR/CAPEL's efforts to strengthen political parties with clearly defined goals, results, methods, forms of intervention, intermediate steps, countries and priority topics</p>	<p>The IIHR/CAPEL has greater expertise for its strategic efforts to strengthen political parties</p>	<p>USAID funded a Democracy Fellow who assisted the IIHR/CAPEL in drafting a <i>Strategic plan to promote the reform of political parties</i> in the region. In February 2005, USAID selected David Kupferschmidt, who began working with the project on 3 March. On 9 March, Mr. Kupferschmidt was joined by Honduran consultant Carlos Ávila, a former Minister of Education and banking executive in his native country, who has experience in strategic planning. Together, they prepared a conceptual proposal for a possible strategy for the IIHR/CAPEL. On 9-10 March, the draft was discussed with the IIHR's senior management and the IIHR/CAPEL team of specialists. Mr. Kupferschmidt concluded his secondment and on 14 June he and the consultant presented to the IIHR/CAPEL team a preliminary version of a Strategic Plan, which was studied to fine-tune it. The document was subsequently restructured as the team found it to be seriously flawed as far as the plan's focus, content and orientation were concerned. For this reason, the IIHR/CAPEL decided to reprogram the implementation of the meeting of experts called for in the plan. The processing of the data gathered at the four regional workshops on the strengthening of political parties is yielding valuable information that will be used as input for a base document of a new strategic plan that will be prepared and presented to the meeting of experts. The meeting will be held at the end of 2005 or in early 2006, depending on when the internal document containing the processed information is completed.</p>	

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Pilot Project*</p> <p>Objective: To develop an agenda for strengthening political parties in Ecuador and the Dominican Republic, with proposed laws, statutes or other types of regulations agreed with the political parties, electoral authorities and different sectors of the population</p> <p>* Provisionally, in two countries: Dominican Republic and Ecuador, subject to confirmation once Strategic Plan is completed</p>	<p>Strategic agenda established for strengthening political parties in the countries selected</p> <p>Consensus on and political support for the agenda among political parties, the electoral authorities and various sectors of the population</p>	<p>The pilot projects in Ecuador and the Dominican Republic were due to get under way in September 2005. These countries were specified in the Strategic Plan but the team discarded the idea of working in Ecuador due to the complicated political situation, which has led to changes in the governmental structure and in political activities. The pilot plan in the Dominican Republic is going ahead as planned, since: a) there is a favorable legislative environment, particularly as a new law on political parties was enacted; b) the Central Electoral Board, a member of the Tikal Protocol, is assigned specific responsibilities in this area; c) USAID-Dominican Republic is sponsoring an initiative on the same topic, making it possible to pool efforts and resources; d) the results of the meetings held in that country under the project for the internal democratization of political parties highlighted lines of action on which we have been working; and, e) the results of the meeting pointed to certain trends for continued work in that country with two counterparts -Participación Ciudadana and the Technological Institute of Santo Domingo (INTEC), under the aegis of its Governability Project. The pilot project in the Dominican Republic will get under way in October 2005.</p>	

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
Specialized Studies Objectives: To study specific proposals in the areas of transparency, institutionalization and democratization, with a view to systematizing and disseminating them	More comparative knowledge of each subject area More proposals for local or regional actions to strengthen political parties Stronger bases for possible national agendas	During the reporting period, talks got under way concerning the specialized texts that are to be published on institutionalization, democratization and transparency. The publication project kicked off in July. The specialized texts will be ready by the end of year. They will deal with the subjects of institutionalization, democratization and transparency, and the main ways in which these issues reinforce or cancel each other out. The IIHR/CAPEL organized an editorial meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 26 July 2005 with several experts who will be working on the project. Doubts were cleared up and specific objectives set. The deadline for delivery of the final drafts is 21 October 2005.	

Activities	Impact Indicators 2004-2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
Web page Objectives: To create a cyber center for specialized information and communication, to support a network of members of political parties in Latin America	Agents of change within political parties who use the Cyber Center are better informed More sharing of experiences and models for institutionalization, democratization and transparency in political parties Better studies and comparative research on political parties at the regional and local levels	During the reporting period (September 2004 - August 2005), project staff and the IIHR's Information and Editorial Services Unit established the minimum standards for the new specialized section. Suppliers were asked to submit quotations for setting up the cyber center for specialized information and communication, to support a network of members of political parties in Latin America. Various proposals for the redesign of the Electoral Network have already been studied. The most attractive and functional proposal includes the development and management of the specialized section as a portal that would make it possible to standardize all the sources of information and services. The staff is waiting for the company to submit a new financial proposal taking into account our suggestions and needs. It will be implemented at once.	

Activities	Impact Indicators 2005 Work Plan	Achievements	Means of Verification
<p>Workshops on political campaign reform in Chile</p> <p>Objective: To evaluate current rules on financing and draw up a set of recommendations for strengthening or reforming political campaigns</p>	<p>Reforms of political campaigns in Chile evaluated</p> <p>Recommendations for the strengthening or reform of financing rules implemented</p>	<p>Under the project Workshops on the Reform of Political Campaigns, which the IIHR/CAPEL is implementing with the Corporación PARTICIPA and the Electoral Service of Chile, a preparatory mission to Chile was carried out 1-4 March 2005. Meetings were held to prepare the seminar <i>Evaluation of the implementation of the law to improve transparency and control and limit campaign spending</i>. This activity took place in Santiago, Chile, on 15 April 2005. The implementation of the legislation in the municipal elections held in October 2004 was analyzed from the perspective of the government, the Electoral Service, academia, civil society and comparative experiences. The participants also discussed and proposed, based on the evaluation carried out, the aspects of the current legislation that require changes to improve its operation and ensure that election spending is increasingly transparent and equitable for the different political actors.</p> <p>The seminar planned for the second half of 2005 was affected by recent political reforms to the financing system. We were obliged to reschedule it for the beginning of 2006, to analyze the implications of the issue for the presidential elections in Chile slated for 11 December 2005 and then gauge the impact once the elections have taken place. However, the Director of the IIHR/CAPEL will make a follow-up visit in October 2005.</p>	<p>Report of the seminar <i>"Evaluation of the implementation of the law to improve transparency and control and limit campaign spending,"</i> 15 April 2005</p>

How was progress made in achieving the performance indicator of the project EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND POLITICAL PARTY REFORM?

The strategy devised to address the various aspects involved in the internal democratization of political parties has proven to be correct and successful. This is true in both quantitative and qualitative terms. As was stated in the report for this period (September 2004 - August 2005) on the Strengthening Electoral Institutions component (particularly as regards the implementation of the workshop Agenda for strengthening political parties in Central America and the Dominican Republic), the project progressed from purely academic activities to applied research focused on Bolivia, Chile and the Dominican Republic and research conducted by the IIHR/CAPEL and financed by Denmark's cooperation program for Central America and Panama (*"Internal democratization of political parties in Central America. Progress made and tasks pending"*). However, the project also undertook two national efforts with concrete applications, in Chile and El Salvador.

In the case of this last activity, it is worth reiterating that the IIHR/CAPEL does not regard its assessments and academic studies simply as intellectual exercises or as input for the development of doctrine; on the contrary, regardless of whether they have been generated by a single donor, their basic objective is practical. A case in point is the research sponsored by Denmark's program for Central America and Panama (PRODECA), which proved to be extremely useful and provided strategic input for the report on El Salvador.

Thus, we moved from a primarily academic focus (one that combined *deskwork* with the *application of specialized consultation instruments*) to one involving a regional and subregional approach, which was then complemented with national experiences. In Chile, the project monitored campaign spending, a precondition for transparency, working with a high-profile, specialized NGO, PARTICIPA-Chile. In El Salvador, it helped outline a short- and medium-term strategy to enable the local USAID office to plot a course and define its priorities for supporting the political party system in that country.

The IIHR/CAPEL has shown that this kaleidoscope of activities is both possible and viable; that it can be coordinated through the direct action of the IIHR-CAPEL, its team of specialists or group of consultants, or by activating the various networks of academics, electoral bodies and citizen organizations that exert influence over political processes.

The study on the monitoring of campaign spending in Chile shows that the IIHR/CAPEL's strategic partnerships with prestigious civil society organizations like PARTICIPA-Chile have a positive impact on key issues (such as the financing and control of election spending, particularly as new legislation on this subject came into effect on 31 October 2004). The media are very interested in such studies and the electoral bodies and political actors draw on them to amend current regulations or implement them more effectively.

Based on the lessons learned from the election process in Chile, at least the following aspects of the law need to be modified:

- The state's contribution should be established in order to achieve some degree of equity in the spending of the different candidates. The results of the monitoring show that the difference in spending is enormous and that the candidates of small parties have no chance of projecting themselves among the citizenry. The current regulations do nothing to remedy this situation.
- The rates charged by service providers should be made public. That is the only way of determining with some degree of certainty how much the candidates and parties have spent.

- Increase the oversight functions of the Electoral Service. A law is only effective if stiff penalties exist to discourage people from breaking it. An independent agency is also needed to monitor effective compliance with the law. Under the current legislation, the Electoral Service does not have powers throughout the period of campaign spending, which is precisely when it is possible to monitor or control expenditures. Nor can it take the initiative in denouncing violations of the law; it can only take action after a candidate or political party lodges a complaint.
- The law should also permit members of the public to denounce violations, especially as it is a matter of public interest.
- The sanctions contemplated in the current law do not encourage people to comply with it. The fines currently imposed are twice, three or four times the amount that candidates overspend (based on the amounts candidates with economic resources specify in their projection of expenditures). It should be borne in mind that in some countries, candidates who break the law are barred from holding office.
- During the passage of the current law, a large segment of civil society called for clauses dealing with disclosure and transparency regarding the origin of the funds used for electioneering. This is particularly important in the case of donations from private sources and bearing in mind the enormous inequality in the spending of the different candidates and parties. The current legislation created a system of anonymous, confidential and public contributions. Only public contributions are disclosed (donations of over 600 UF to candidates or 3000 UF to political parties). The law encourages people to make anonymous or confidential donations. As donations of less than 20 UF are anonymous, contributors can simply divide their large donations into lots of small ones.

Finally, the assistance provided at the request of USAID-EI Salvador was very important. It involved the tricky task of defining a strategy, establishing priorities and pinpointing possible challenges and obstacles (achieved by means of a very rigorous methodology calling for the garnering, systematization and presentation of information provided by institutional and political stakeholders themselves). This constituted not only a vote of confidence in the IIHR/CAPEL's record and work but also confirmed that the strategy of institutional support from USAID-Washington to implement components under the cooperation agreement can be complemented with efforts to meet the concrete needs of local USAID offices in the different countries of the Americas. It also showed that efforts to democratize political parties can be carried out simultaneously at the regional, subregional and national levels.

During the period under review, a Democracy Fellow helped draft the preliminary version of the strategic plan for political parties. He took part in the workshops with political parties held in Paraguay and Mexico (under the Strengthening Electoral Institutions Project), consulting the different parties present. Carlos Ávila was also hired. A Honduran consultant specializing in strategic plans, he served as Minister of Education under President Ricardo Maduro. They produced a draft strategic plan that must now be studied and restructured. The guest researcher arrived late and the time available for preparing the plan was limited. The project staff later realized that more time was needed to develop a plan of this magnitude, which must incorporate the results of the IIHR/CAPEL's work in this field over the last three years.

During the final stage of the research on the democratization of political parties in Bolivia, Chile and the Dominican Republic, conclusions were reached that are very important not only for the three countries concerned but for the IIHR/CAPEL's overarching strategy for strengthening political parties. The staff identified both areas of progress and weaknesses with regard to democratization, placing the IIHR/CAPEL in the forefront as far as work on political parties is concerned. This research has also provided important input for the strategic plan. Combined with the consultations outlined under the previous component (Strengthening Electoral Institutions Project), the IIHR/CAPEL now has specialized knowledge on political parties that will stand it in good stead for work in this field for the next 3-5 years.

The IIHR/CAPEL believes that the research and consultations with political parties, the projection of the specialized publications that are to be produced and the embryonic strategic plan place it in a good position to exert influence over other levels of the life of political parties in Latin America.

The coordination called for in implementing the seminar “Evaluation of the implementation of the law to improve transparency and control and limit campaign spending in Chile” demonstrated the strengths and efficacy of the strategy of activating specialized networks. The IIHR/CAPEL regards the latter as extremely important. In addition to involving the Electoral Service and the Electoral Tribunal in this important task of controlling campaign spending, a fruitful relationship was established with the specialized NGO PARTICIPA. This led to a broad spectrum of the country’s academics and politicians becoming interested in this issue, which is of key importance for the present stage of democratic development in Chile. The activity had a major impact both in academic terms and in promoting political rights. It repositioned on the public agenda a subject of vital importance in the run up to the December 2005 presidential elections.

The Director of the IIHR/CAPEL took part in a conference on action with political parties, in Washington (see UNIORE newsletter #48). This turned out to be important and the IIHR/CAPEL is now better placed and more qualified to share experiences with institutions that have been involved in this area for longer. This is especially important in the case of the democratization of political parties. The IIHR/CAPEL’s studies have focused on issues that have barely been touched on before in projects that have to do with Latin American political parties.

There were interesting developments with regard to the activity “*Development and dissemination of concrete proposals for promoting the internal democratization of political parties*,” which focused on Bolivia, Chile and the Dominican Republic. Having both a national perspective and those of different sectors made it possible to confirm that the research is valuable for strengthening political parties and especially with respect to the issue of democratization. It also led to the staff to rethink some of the areas for future work. Moreover, the meeting confirmed the wisdom of the strategy of consulting various sectors (academics, politicians, citizen organizations and donor agencies) and that our conclusions were correct. The meeting helped us to interpret the findings better but the most important thing was that they were validated. The meeting also enabled us to pinpoint future actions, which is important for defining actions as part of a strategic plan with political parties. Furthermore, consulting such a wide variety of stakeholders revealed the strong interest in strengthening political parties and that the issue can continue to be addressed from different perspectives.

Finally, we reached the conclusion that redesigning the Web page is not enough; it needs to be restructured to absorb new components, such as the work with political parties.